VOL.

6

Fuuka

KOUJI SEO

VOL.
6
KOUJI SEO
WITH CONCEPTUAL ASSISTANCE BY:
YOSHINORI SUGIMOTO

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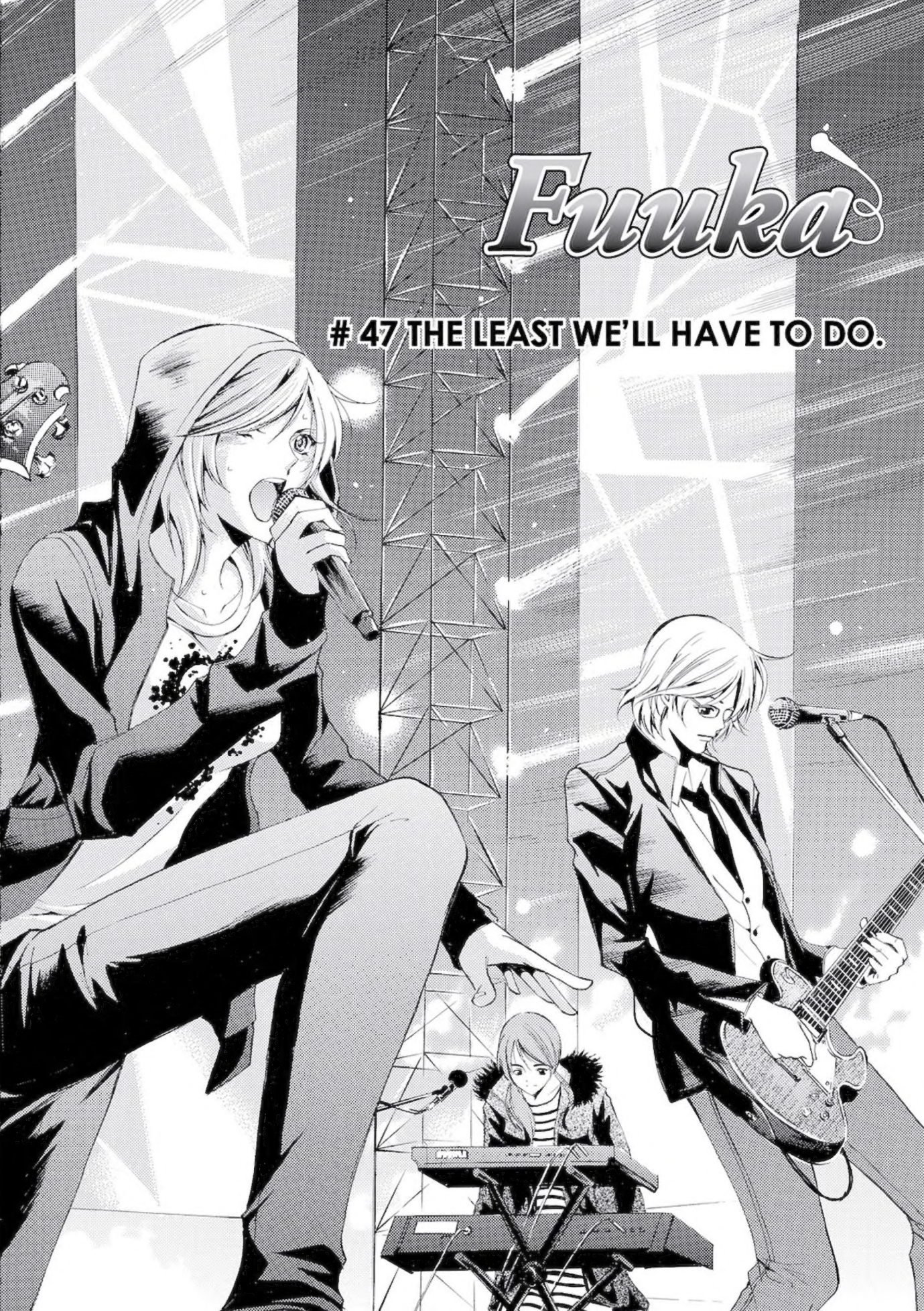
FUUKA
VOL. 6

WOOOOO
SIGN: BUDOUKAN
武道館
Revival Special Live
HEDGEHOGS


Fuuka
47 THE LEAST WE'LL HAVE TO DO.

MP

WHOA...
...
THIS IS THE FULL HEDGEHOGS LINEUP.
I NEVER KNEW THEY SOUNDED SO AMAZING IN PERSON.
...
"TAMA," THE VOCALIST THAT YASSAN AND THE OTHERS WAITED SIX YEARS FOR...
ARE YOU HERE LISTENING TOO...
FUUKA?
WHAT IS THIS VOCAL POWER-- THIS PRESENCE-- SHE HAS?

YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS...
...KOYUKI-CHAN?
...
YES.
ONCE I'VE FINISHED ALL THE WORK ON MY CURRENT SCHEDULE...
...I'LL RETIRE FROM MUSIC.

WEREN'T THEY AWE-SOME?!
WEREN'T THE HEDGE-HOGS AWE-SOME?!

RESTAURANT CASA

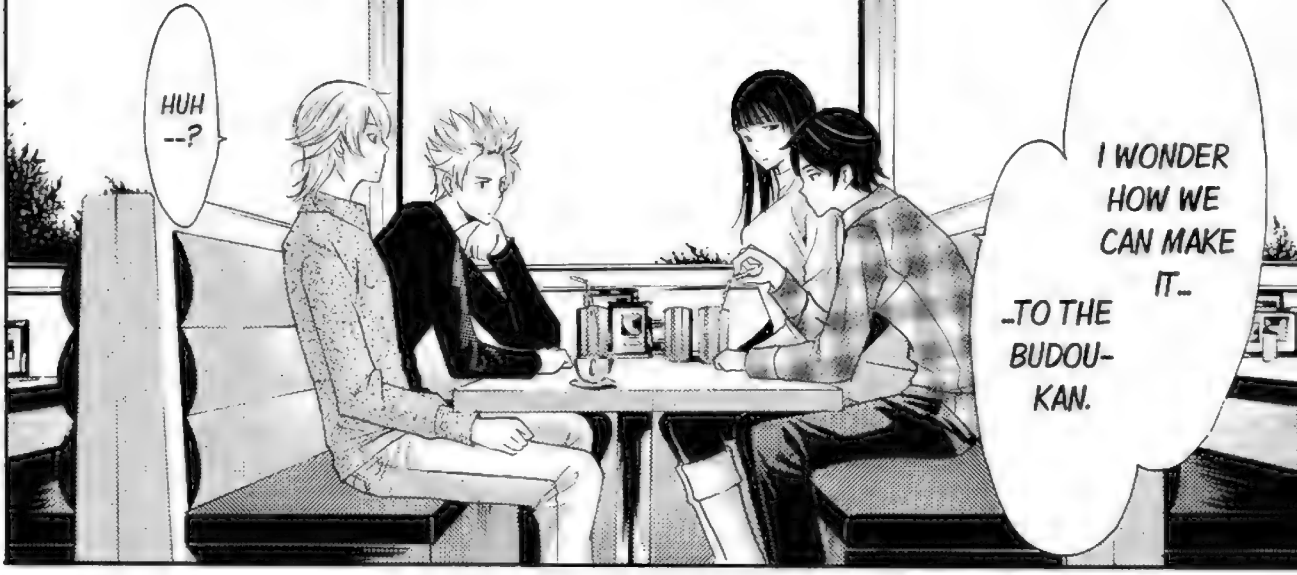
MS. TOMOMI'S KEYBOARD PLAYING DID HAVE REALLY NICE RHYTHM.
BALANCED, BUT NOT MECHAN-ICAL.
YOU'D NEVER KNOW THEY WERE OUT OF THE SCENE FOR SIX YEARS.

THEY HAVE THIS, LIKE, HARD, ROUGH ROCK FEEL!!
TAMA IS REALLY THE ONLY VOCAL-IST FOR THEM!!
YOU REALLY LIKE THEM, HUH, YUU-KUN?
YEAH!!

THE PRINCIPAL REALLY LET HER HAVE IT, THOUGH.
WHEN SHE ANNOUNCED SHE WAS QUITTING OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THAT?

I GUESS THAT JUST SHOWS HOW SERIOUS SHE IS ABOUT THE BAND.
YEAH, YASSAN AND HISASHI-SAN QUIT THEIR DAY JOBS, TOO.

HE'S SO SKILLED AT THE BASS. IT'S ALMOST CREEPY.
THOUGH, I GUESS THE SAME GOES FOR MY BRO-THER.
BUT NOW THAT I PLAY BASS MYSELF, I REALIZE HOW INCRED-IBLE NIKO IS.
I CAN'T EVEN BELIEVE HE'S PLAYING THE SAME IN-STRUMENT.
NO WAY, IT'S YASSAN'S DRUMMING THAT'S AMAZING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S THE SAME DUDE WHO WAS MAKING YAKISOBA AT THE BEACH HOUSE.
NOW I KIND OF GET WHAT IT MEANS FOR A GUY TO FALL FOR ANOTHER GUY.
...
SURE, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE WHAT YOU'RE IMAGINING.
REALLY? WOULD YOU CARE TO ELABORATE ON THAT IN A BIT MORE DETAIL?


HUH --?
I WONDER HOW WE CAN MAKE IT-
-TO THE BUDOU-KAN.

BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO TO GET THERE.
I'M THE ONE WHO TALKED ABOUT GOING PRO-

AH.
UM.
ゴホン
AHEM

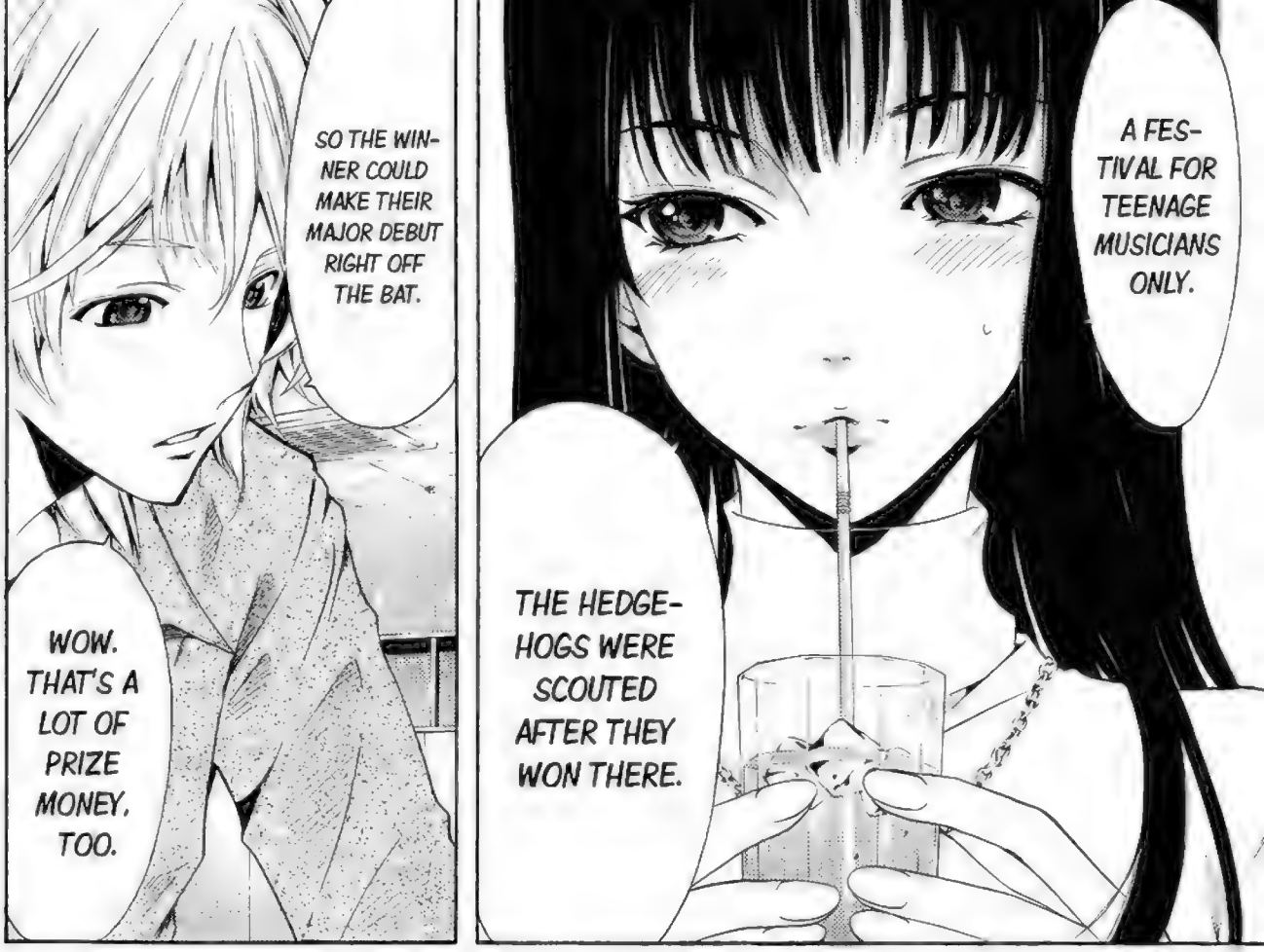
WELL, ALL WE CAN DO IS PLAY AT LIVE CLUBS AND GET OUR-SELVES HEARD, RIGHT?
NOT THAT I'D REALLY KNOW, EITHER.

COME ON, GET IT TOGETHER.
YOU'RE MAKING ME WORRY ABOUT OUR FUTURE.
S-SORRY.

...!!
WHAT'S UP, IWAMI? YOU'RE SO ENERGETIC.
HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT?
HUH?
FWIP
TA-DAH!!

THIS IS--
BWAH!!
SPLOOSH
...

GRAND PRIZE: 1 MILLION YEN
賞金100万円
LIGHTNING REBELLION
電光ヘビリオン
20XX
SEEKING PARTICIPANTS!!
DEADLINE: 1/31 (POSTMARKED BY DATE)
LIGHTNING REBELLION?


A FESTIVAL FOR TEENAGE MUSICIANS ONLY.
THE HEDGEHOGS WERE SCOUTED AFTER THEY WON THERE.
SO THE WINNER COULD MAKE THEIR MAJOR DEBUT RIGHT OFF THE BAT.
WOW. THAT'S A LOT OF PRIZE MONEY, TOO.

BUT NACHI-SENPAI IS ALREADY 19, SO THIS YEAR IS OUR ONLY CHANCE.
WELL, SORRY FOR BEING AN OLD GEEZER!!
YEP.
DON'T AGREE !!

THE FIRST SCREENING IS DEMO TAPES.
WE ONLY HAVE ONE SONG SO FAR, SO THIS IS PERFECT.

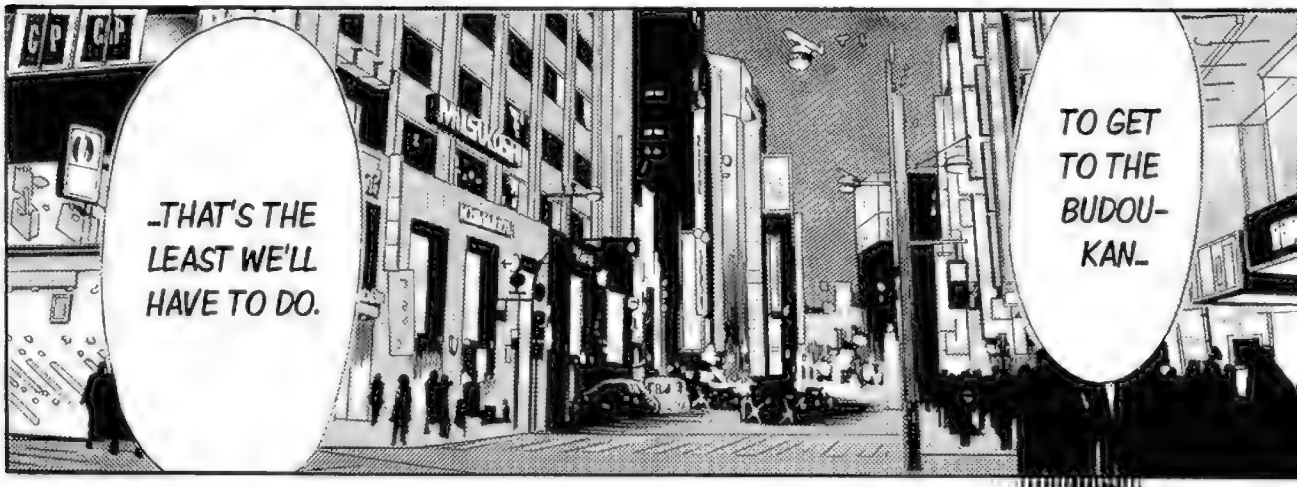
I HAVE NO OB-JECTIONS.
YEAH! LET'S ENTER THIS FESTIVAL, THEN!!

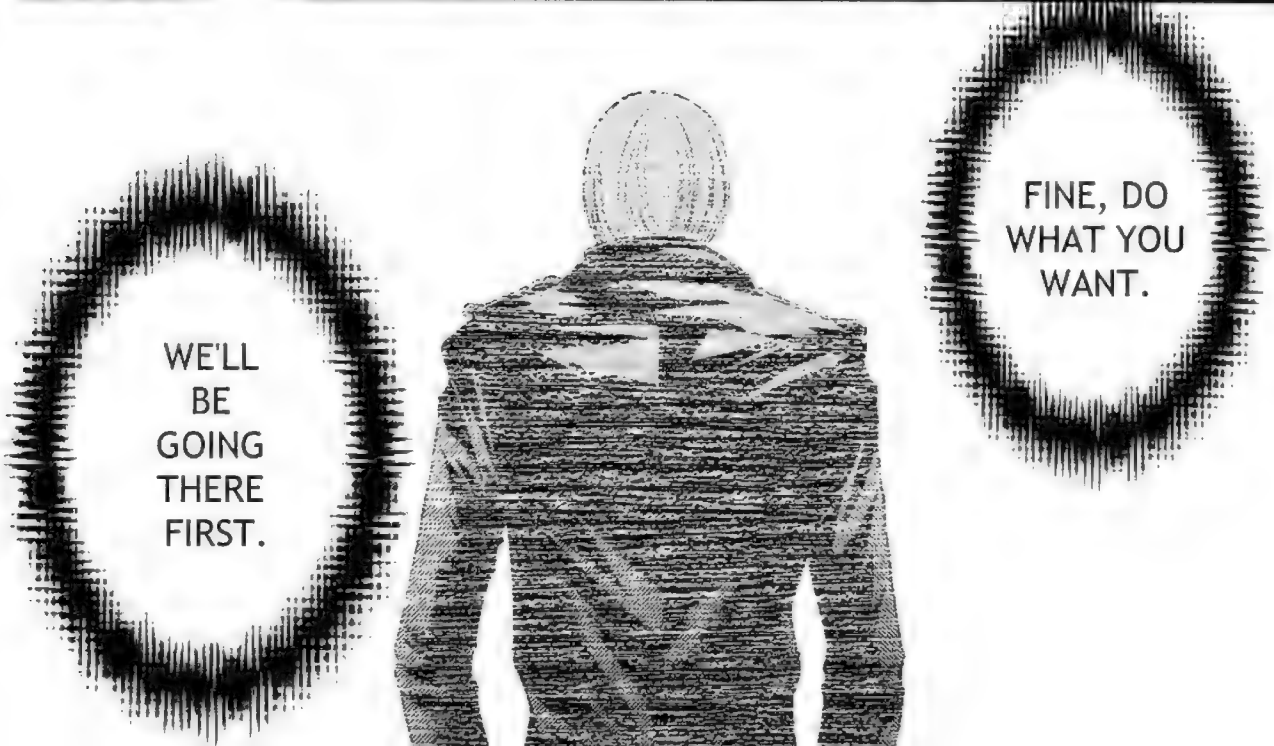
I CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOU, SARA-SENPAI!
THANK YOU, GUYS!

YOU'LL HAVE TO PRACTICE YOUR BASS AND SING LIKE CRAZY START-ING TOMOR-ROW.
SO DON'T GET TOO CARRIED AWAY.
OH, RIGHT.
SORRY-

WHA-
AH-

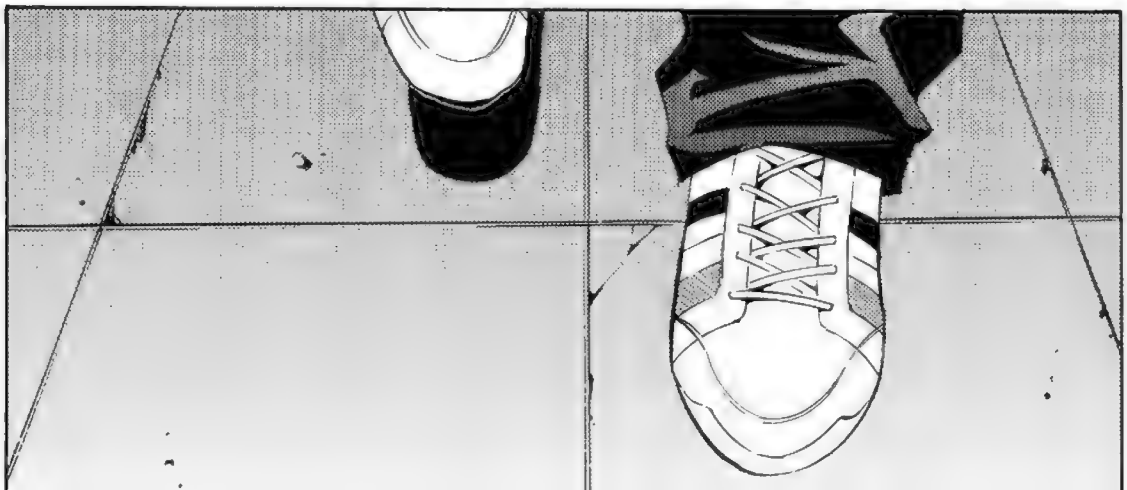
THE FEST-
IVAL THAT
THE HEDGE-
HOGS WON..
...


..THAT'S THE
LEAST WE'LL
HAVE TO DO.
TO GET
TO THE
BUDOU-
KAN..


WE'LL
BE
GOING
THERE
FIRST.
FINE, DO
WHAT YOU
WANT.

WE WILL CATCH UP TO YOU!!
JUST WATCH, NIKO!!
...
WOW.
THE STARS ARE SO CLEAR ON A COLD NIGHT LIKE THIS.
HUH --?
THIS SONG...

WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?
"THE TOWN WHERE THE STARS FALL" BY THE HEDGEHOGS.



SPORTS FOOD

ヒックカメラ
ODAQUE
HALK
ヒックカメラ
ODAQUE
ODAQUE
ヒックカメ

BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS LOST IN IT.
THE VOICE OF THE GIRL I MET...
...IN THAT TOWN WHERE THE STARS FELL.

Fuuka

48 THE TOWN WHERE THE STARS FALL.

FUUKA

コト…
TUNK
HALK
SHE'S STOPPING ALREADY?
HUH?
HUH?
ARE YOU..
..GONNA BE ABLE TO MAKE THE LAST TRAIN?
…

KLAK
WHAT ?!
EVERY-ONE'S GONE ?!

...

HUH?
I'D LIKE TO COME LISTEN AGAIN.
UM... DO YOU SING HERE OFTEN?

HEY, YOU TWO!
YOU CAN'T PLAY GUITAR OUT HERE!

IT'S BEEN THAT LONG?
I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE.

OH.
I WAS JUST PASSING BY--
AND THIS LATE AT NIGHT--
ARE YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL?
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
WHAT?!
WHOA!!
TAKE THE BAG!
DASH
HURRY UP!!
R-RIGHT!!
HEY! STOP, YOU TWO!!
HUH?!
HEY--!
LET'S GO!!

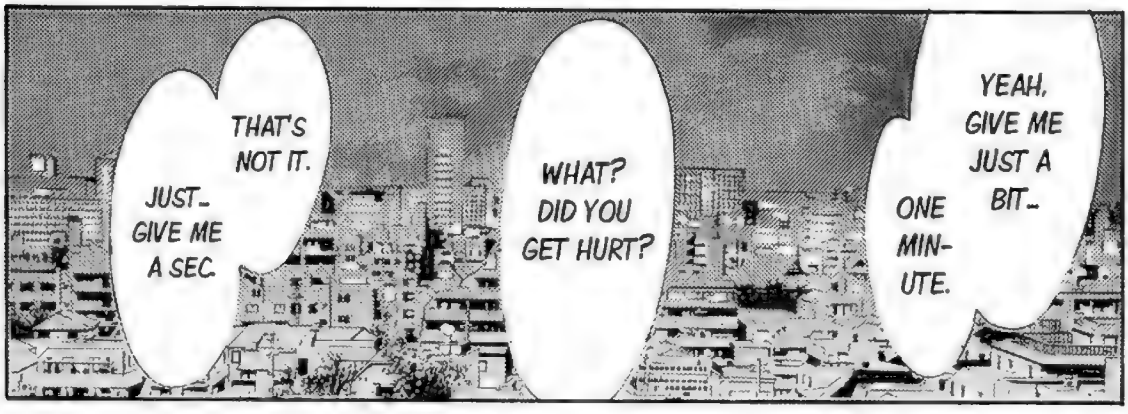
THA—
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!
BE QUIET.
MMF —!

IT'S OKAY.
YOU CAN COME OUT.

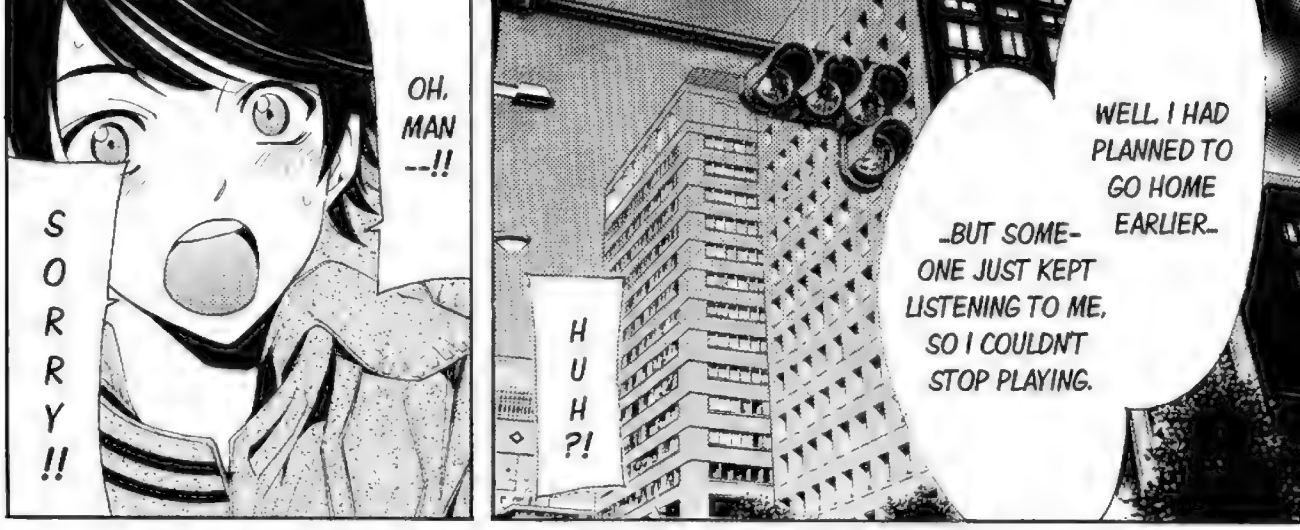
I'M SURE HE WOULDN'T...
...FOLLOW US THIS FAR.

COME ON OUT.
...?
WHAT ARE YOU ALL HUNCHED OVER FOR?

SURE...
...OH.


JUST... GIVE ME A SEC.
THAT'S NOT IT.
WHAT? DID YOU GET HURT?
ONE MIN-UTE.
YEAH, GIVE ME JUST A BIT...

...
SO HOT...
ALL THAT RUNNING WORKED UP A SWEAT.
UM...
WHY DID YOU RUN FROM THE OFFICER LIKE THAT?
HUH?
WHAT THE HECK?
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST GO HOME, THEN?
I'D NEVER GET AWAY WITH PLAYING GUITAR ON THE STREET THIS LATE, AFTER A CONCERT.
BECAUSE IF MY PARENTS FOUND OUT, THEY'D KILL ME.


SORRY!!
OH, MAN --!!
HUH?!
WELL, I HAD PLANNED TO GO HOME EARLIER.
..BUT SOMEONE JUST KEPT LISTENING TO ME, SO I COULDN'T STOP PLAYING.

WHY DON'T YOU GO ON HOME?
NAH, IT'S FINE.
NO SENSE WASTING MONEY ON A NET CAFÉ. MIGHT AS WELL WANDER AROUND UNTIL THE FIRST TRAIN IN THE MORNING.

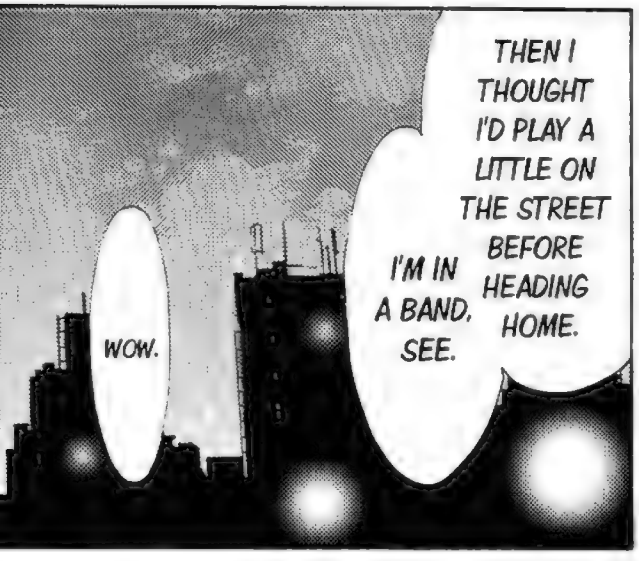
S-STILL !!
IT'S BETTER THAN BEING ALONE!!

...

I COULDN'T DO THAT! THIS WAS MY FAULT!!
BESIDES, IT'S DANGEROUS FOR A GIRL TO BE OUT HERE ALONE!!
I DOUBT A WIMPY-LOOKING KID LIKE YOU COULD HELP MUCH WITH THAT.

TEA
PCIA
ALD

YOU WERE AT THE HEDGEHOGS CONCERT?
WHAT?


WOW.
I'M IN A BAND, SEE.
THEN I THOUGHT I'D PLAY A LITTLE ON THE STREET BEFORE HEADING HOME.

YEAH. I'VE BEEN A FAN FOREVER.
WHEN I HEARD THEY WERE COMING BACK, I BOUGHT MY TICKET RIGHT AWAY.

AT THE CON-CERT.
OH-- I WAS ACTUALLY THERE, TOO.

OH, YEAH? YOU MANAGED TO GET A TICKET?
ACTUALLY... THE DRUMMER, YASSAN, GAVE IT TO ME.
HE TOLD US ALL TO COME.

OH... I FOR-GOT.
HIS LAST NAME ISN'T PUBLICLY KNOWN.
IT'S NOBU-SAN, THE DRUMMER.

WHAT?
WHO'S YAS-SAN?

WHY WOULD NOBU-SAN GIVE YOU A TICKET?
WHY? WELL... I MET HIM WHEN I WORKED PART-TIME AT A BEACH HOUSE. OH, AND THE GUITARIST, HISASHI, WAS ALSO THERE.

...

THE DRUMMER AND GUITARIST OF THE HEDGE-HOGS WOULDN'T WORK AT A BEACH HOUSE!
WHAT KIND OF DUMB STORY IS THAT?!
HEY, I WAS SURPRISED, TOO!!
...
AND MY HOMEROOM TEACHER TURNED OUT TO BE TOMO, THE KEY-BOARDIST.
AND THE BASSIST, NIKO, JUST BARGED INTO MY HOUSE...

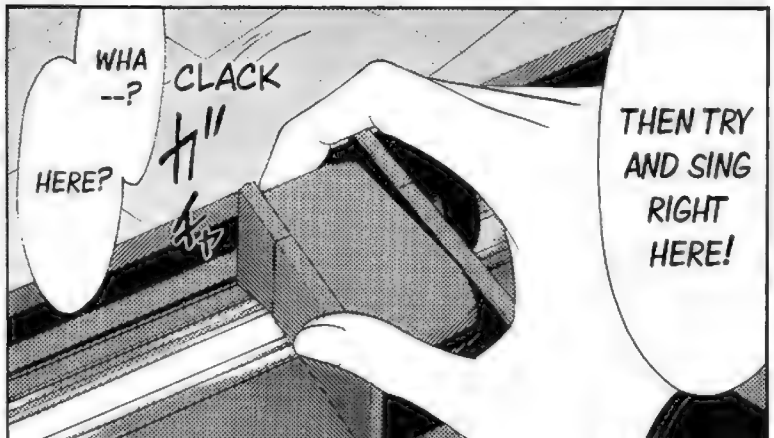
THEY TAUGHT ME A LOT ABOUT BEING IN A BAND.
THAT'S WHY WE DECIDED TO TAKE A SHOT AT THE LIGHTNING REBELLION MUSIC FESTIVAL!!

I... I SEE.
YOU REALLY LIKE THE HEDGEHOGS... A LOT.
C'MON!
IT'S THE TRUTH!!

WHAT?

Y-
YEAH.
I DO BASS AND VOCALS.
YOU'RE IN A BAND, TOO?

...


WHA --?
HERE?
CLACK
カ!!
THEN TRY AND SING RIGHT HERE!

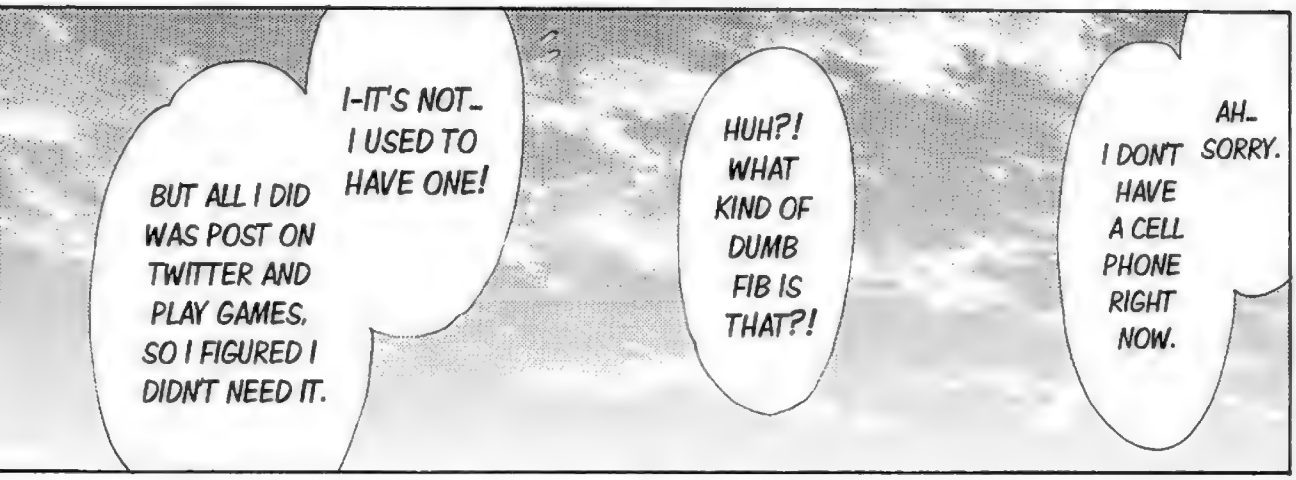
I'M NOT LYING!
WE'VE EVEN DONE GIGS!!
JUST TWO, BUT...

...
YOU CAN HANDLE THAT MUCH, RIGHT?
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN ENTER THAT FESTIVAL...
I... I CAN.
OKAY, I'LL PLAY THE GUITAR.
IS "THE TOWN WHERE THE STARS FALL" OKAY?
...SURE.
WELL, I GUESS IT'S A BETTER RESPONSE THAN WHEN I PLAYED MY NEW SONG FOR THE OTHERS.
AND BESIDES...
STRUM
SHE PRAISED MY SINGING ON THIS SONG.

WELL...
NOT BAD, I GUESS?
HOW...
...
HOW WAS THAT?
REALLY?
WHEW, GOOD.
I-I'LL SING NEXT!!
YOU BETTER LISTEN!!
O-OKAY.
I'M BETTER THAN YOU, SO LISTEN GOOD!
F-FINE, I WILL.
~~~
~~~

THE SUN'S COMING UP.
HUH -?
NO WONDER MY THROAT FELT SORE.
YOU MADE ME SING ALL NIGHT.
ER... THAT WAS YOUR OWN CHOICE.
OKAY, I'M GONNA GO.
THE TRAINS SHOULD BE RUNNING NOW.
YEAH.
I'LL HEAD HOME, TOO.

HUH?
I'LL CONTACT YOU WHEN I HAVE A GIG COMING UP.
HEY, COULD I GET YOUR MOBILE ADDRESS?
..OH.


I-IT'S NOT.. I USED TO HAVE ONE!
BUT ALL I DID WAS POST ON TWITTER AND PLAY GAMES, SO I FIGURED I DIDN'T NEED IT.
HUH?! WHAT KIND OF DUMB FIB IS THAT?!
I DON'T HAVE A CELL PHONE RIGHT NOW.
AH.. SORRY.

WITH A CELL PHONE, YOU FIND OUT EVERYTHING RIGHT AWAY, YOU KNOW?
AND WITHOUT ACTUALLY GETTING THE FULL STORY.
HUH?

KINDA.
BUT..

F-FOR REAL?!
BUT ISN'T THAT IN-CONVE-NIENT?!

THAT'S KIND OF BORING...
ISN'T IT?

...

HUH --?
DASH
OH, WELL.
I'LL RUN INTO YOU AGAIN SOON ENOUGH. ANYWAY.

...!
ON THE LIGHTNING REBELLION STAGE!
OH, HEY. I DIDN'T GET YOUR NAME.
OH! YOU'RE RIGHT.
YUU HARU-NA.
"YUU" IS WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTER FOR "KIND."
THAT FITS YOU SOME-HOW.
YOU'RE TOTALLY A YUU-KUN.
OH, SHUT UP!! I BET YOU HAVE SOME WEIRD NAME YOURSELF!

I'M
FUUKA
AOI.

YOU WRITE "FUUKA" WITH THE CHAR-ACTERS FOR "WIND" AND "SUMMER"!
...WHAT?

AH--!
UM.
DASH
WELL. I'LL SEE YOU AT THE FESTIVAL!
TRY NOT TO LOSE IN THE PRELIMS!!
...
FWOOOOSH
FUU- KA?

I'M FUUKA AOI.
YOU WRITE "FUUKA" WITH THE CHAR-ACTERS FOR "WIND" AND "SUMMER"!
WELL, I'LL SEE YOU AT THE FES-TIVAL!
TRY NOT TO LOSE IN THE PRELIMS!!
...
SO THIS SECOND "FUUKA"...
Fuuka

Fuuka

49 DRAMATIC.

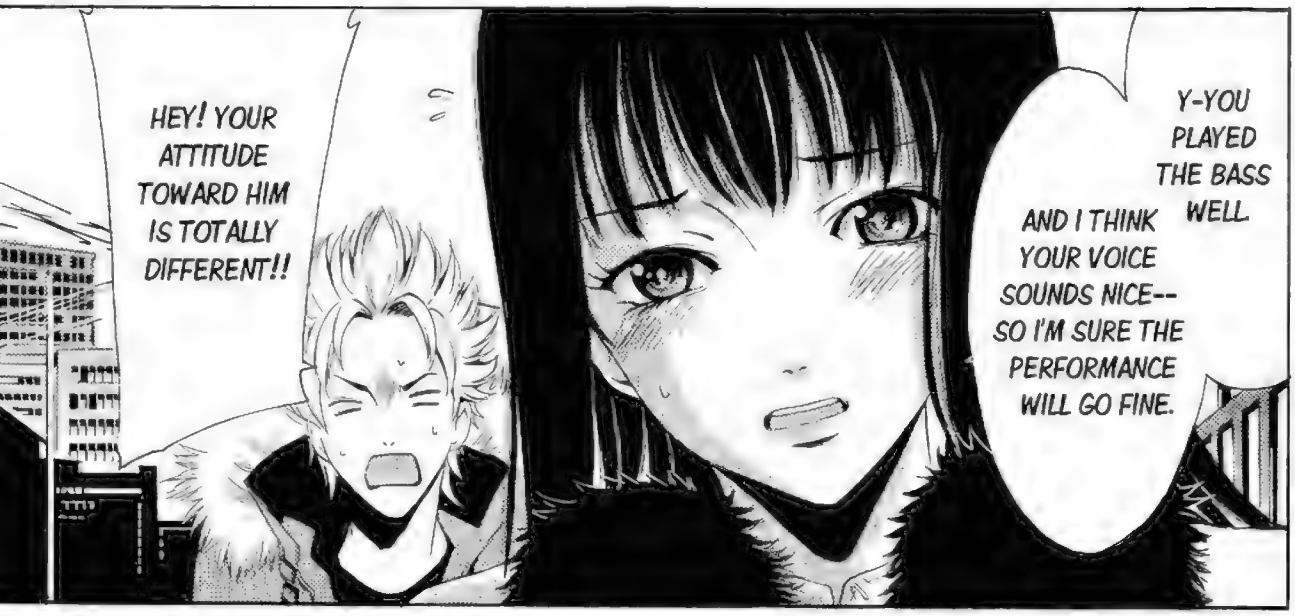
SIGN: LARGE MAIL EXPRESS DELIVERY / ELECTRONIC MAIL / INTERNATIONAL MAIL

I-I WAS NERVOUS BECAUSE YOU SAID WE HAD TO GET IT RIGHT IN ONE RUN!!
LAZY AND CONDE-SCEND-ING...
BIG TALK FOR THE GUY WHO MESSED UP MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE WHEN WE WERE RECORDING.
I TURNED DOWN A COLLEGE RECOM-MENDA-TION FOR THIS BAND!!
IF WE DON'T PASS, MY LIFE IS OVER!
HOPING ISN'T ENOUGH!

SHUT UP!!
I THINK YOU LOOK CUTE WHEN YOU'RE PANICKING LIKE THAT, NACHI-SENPAI.

...

I GOT A LITTLE DEPRESSED WHEN I HEARD THE RECORDING OF MY BASS AND SINGING.
I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS THAT BAD. AND MY VOICE SOUNDS WEIRD.
YOU SEEM DOWN, YUU-SAN.
HUH..?


HEY! YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD HIM IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT!!
Y-YOU PLAYED THE BASS WELL AND I THINK YOUR VOICE SOUNDS NICE-- SO I'M SURE THE PERFORMANCE WILL GO FINE.

WHY DON'T WE RE-HEARSE, THEN?
TO PRE-PARE FOR THE FES-TIVAL
RE-HEARSE?

CHUCKLE
...

HUH?
YOU WANT A GIG?
HMPH.
THESE DAYS, THEY ALL SAY THAT. AND THEN--
I HAVENT HEARD A WORD FROM YOU. AND NOW YOU SHOW UP ASKING FOR FAVORS.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW HOW SERIOUS YOU ARE ABOUT THIS?
WELL, A LOT OF STUFF HAP-PENED.
BUT WE'RE READY TO WORK HARD NOW.
!
PLEASE!!

UH-
SURE.
...
PLEASE LET US PLAY!
WHAT'S THAT?!
--!
HI! WE'RE LE BARD!!
WOOOO
TEEN-AGERS.
...
OH...
A BAND CALLED LE BARD. THEY'RE PRETTY POPULAR LATELY.
I THINK THEY'RE ALL TEEN-AGERS, LIKE YOU GUYS.
DASH!!
EXCUSE ME!! CAN I WATCH THEM?!
H-HEY, HANG ON!
...
IS HE REALLY THE BASSIST FROM BACK THEN?

Pearl

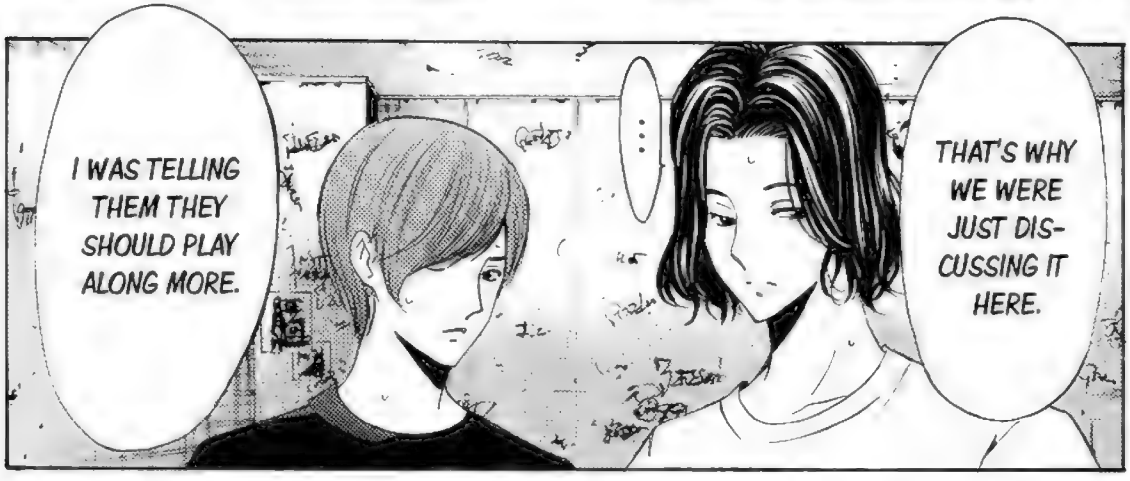
WOOOOO
WOW--THEIR VOCALIST LOOKS SO COOL. AND HE'S A GREAT SINGER.
I-I LIKE YOUR VOICE BETTER.
THE DRUMMER AND BASSIST ARE AMAZING, TOO! ARE THEY REALLY TEEN-AGERS?!
OKAY, SO-
THIS NEXT SONG...
...IS ONE I WROTE ABOUT SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO ME.
THANK YOU!
YUU-GA!
SO HOT !!
YUU-GA-KUN !!
SOMEONE I CAN NEVER SEE AGAIN.

BUT I THINK THAT IF YOU WISH HARD ENOUGH, YOUR FEELINGS WILL REACH THEM.
NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY THEY ARE, IT'LL DEFINITELY GET THROUGH.
I'M SURE ALL OF YOU HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THAT, TOO.
A FRIEND, A BOYFRIEND, FAMILY... SOMEONE WHO'S NOT WITH YOU ANYMORE, BUT WHO MEANS A LOT TO YOU.
...
I'M GOING TO SING THIS SONG WITH THOSE FEELINGS IN MY HEART!
OUR LAST SONG, "DEAR"!
WOOO
...THE ONES YOU CARE ABOUT, TOO!!
I HOPE ALL OF YOUR WISHES WILL REACH...

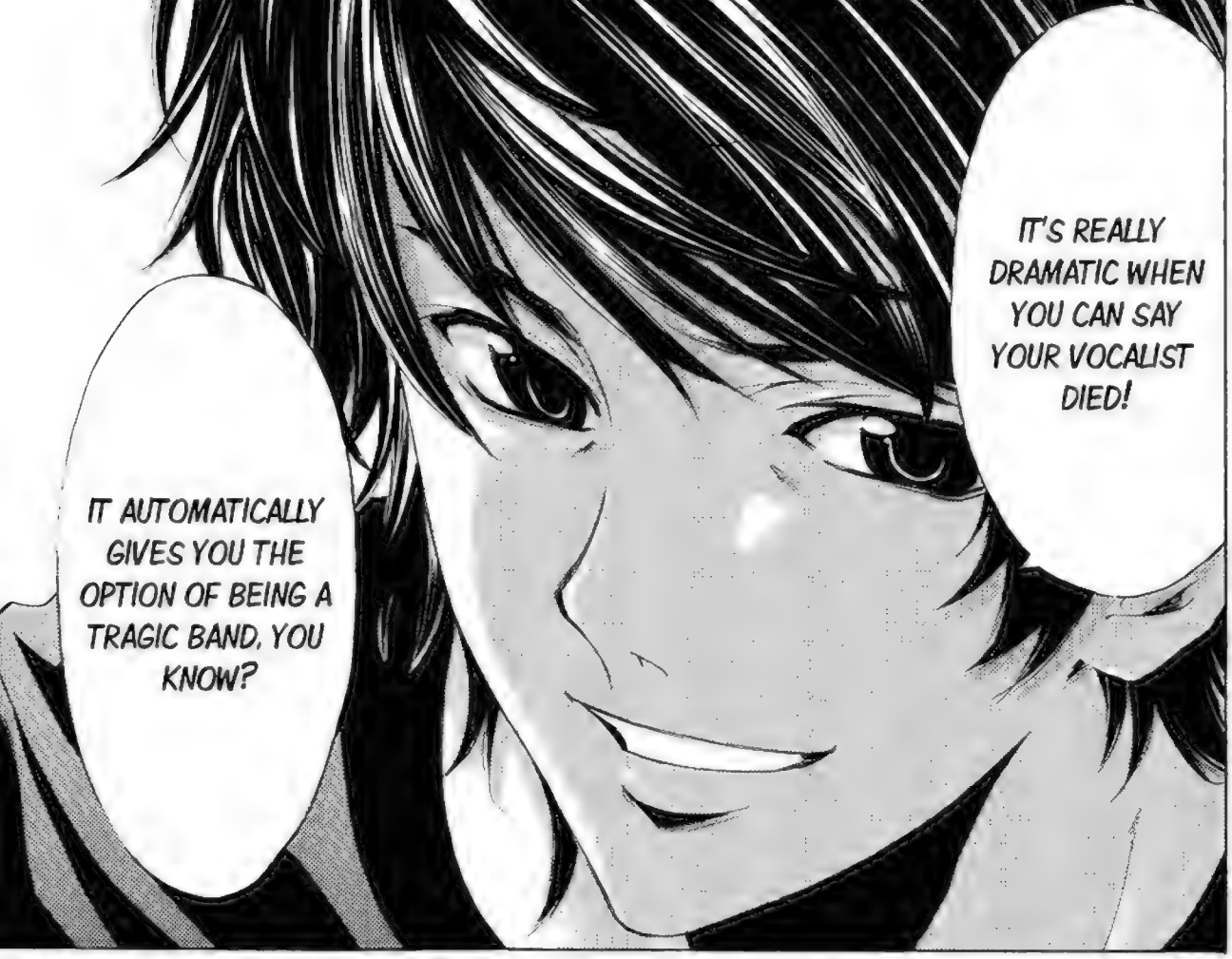
HEY, ARE YOU REALLY GOING IN THERE, HARUNA?
YEAH! THERE'S SOMETHING I REALLY WANT TO TELL HIM!
KA-CHAK
EXCUSE ME—
WHOA!
SNEAK
I CAME IN AT A BAD TIME.
SERIOUSLY, MAN! WHY DID YOU HAVE TO LOOK SO BORED?!
--!!
THE FANS PICK UP ON THAT STUFF, YOU KNOW!!
HM?
WHO ARE YOU?

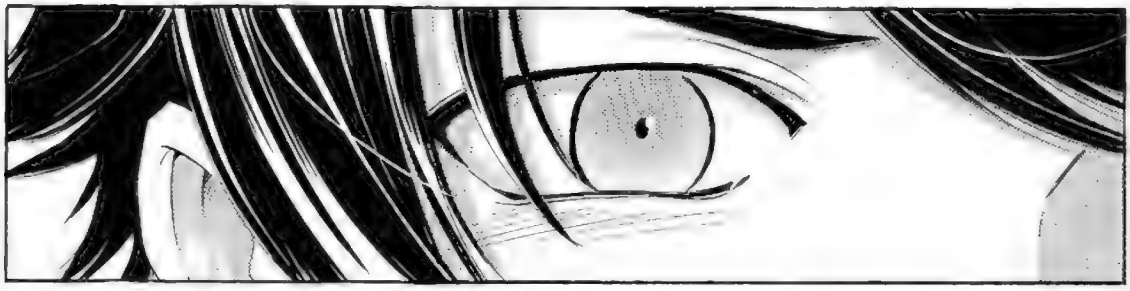
S-SORRY TO IN-TRUDE.
MY BAND WILL BE PLAYING HERE SOON, SO I WANTED TO SAY HI-
...
HUH? YOU LOOK FAMI-LIAR.
OH.. YOU'RE THE GUY FROM TWITTER!! THE ONE KOYUKI HINASHI SAID SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH!
YOU'VE REALLY GOT GUTS, IN-VITING HER TO YOUR CONCERT! THAT VIDEO OF THE PERFOR-MANCE WAS HUGE!!
GRAB
WHA --?
I DIDN'T REALLY--
HEY, ANY-WAY..
..IS IT REALLY TRUE THAT YOUR VOCALIST DIED?
IT WAS ON THE NEWS AND EVERY-THING.
..YEAH
SO I REALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT YOU WERE SAYING DURING YOUR TALK BREAK.
I TOTALLY SYMPA-THIZED.

WHAT?
...
THAT WAS ALL MADE UP.
OH...


I WAS TELLING THEM THEY SHOULD PLAY ALONG MORE.
...
THAT'S WHY WE WERE JUST DISCUSSING IT HERE.

JEALOUS?
I MEAN, FOR YOU, IT'S A TRUE STORY! I'M TOTALLY JEALOUS!
YOU GUYS ARE LUCKY IN THAT RESPECT, THOUGH.
Hurricane


IT'S REALLY DRAMATIC WHEN YOU CAN SAY YOUR VOCALIST DIED!
IT AUTOMATICALLY GIVES YOU THE OPTION OF BEING A TRAGIC BAND, YOU KNOW?



I WAS WRONG.
HUH? WHY? THESE GUYS ARE TOTALLY LUCKY!
HEY, CUT IT OUT, YUUGA.
YOU'RE BEING WAY TOO INSEN-SITIVE.
WAIT, SEN-PAI--!
LISTEN, YOU--!

I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
...THE WAY YOU THINK AT ALL.

ARE YOU FOR REAL?
IT ONLY MAKES SENSE TO USE WHAT-EVER ADVAN-TAGE YOU HAVE TO SELL YOUR ACT.

...HUH?

FUUKA IS NOT A TOOL!
SHE'S OUR FRIEND!!
HA-RU-NA.
YEAH.
--!!
ARE YOU DUMB OR WHAT?
SO, WHAT, YOU'RE JUST SOME BUDDY-BUDDY BAND THAT ISN'T EVEN SERIOUS ABOUT MAKING IT BIG?
HEY, WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET IN HERE?

IF YOU'RE GONNA FIGHT, DO IT ON STAGE.
HAVE THE FANS DECIDE WHO'S RIGHT.
HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
A BATTLE OF THE BANDS.
YOUR TWO BANDS ARE GONNA DUKE IT OUT.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS--?
Fuuka
...RATHER THAN RUNNING YOUR MOUTHS IN HERE.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF DUKING IT OUT ON THE STAGE...
YEAH! BRING IT ON!!
WE'RE IN.
A BATTLE.
WHAT GOOD IS THAT GONNA DO US?
I MEAN, WE OWE YOU A LOT, SO WE'LL DO IT IF YOU TELL US TO. BUT...
IT'S SETTLED, THEN.
NEXT SATURDAY. YOUR TICKET QUOTA IS 40.
Hurricane
PRIME

HUH?
YOU SHOULD REALLY USE IT, INSTEAD OF TRYING TO SOUND COOL.
WHAT? FOR REAL?!
IT'S ONLY FAIR.
IF YOU CAN'T SELL THAT MANY, YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE, SO DON'T SLACK OFF.

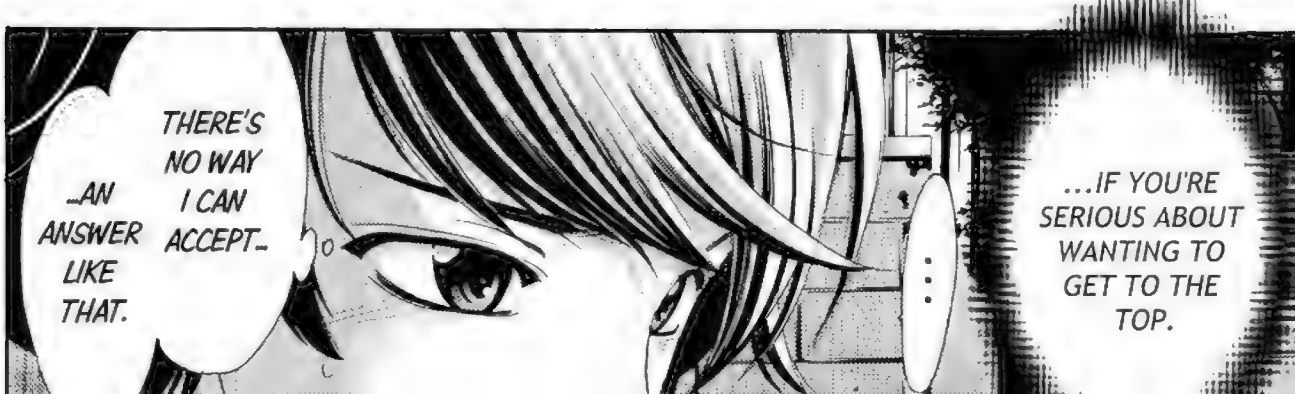
YUUGA, JUST DROP IT ALREADY!
I MEAN, THE FACT THAT YOUR VOCALIST DIED.
PLUG THAT ONLINE, AND YOU'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM SELLING 40 TICKETS.

HUH?
CAN I-
-ASK YOU A QUES-TION?
THAT WAS ALL MADE UP.
OH.
...

50 SONGS THAT SELL.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO EXPRESS AS A BAND?
IF ALL OF YOUR SONGS ARE LIES...

IT'S THE WRONG QUESTION FROM THE START...
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


...AN ANSWER LIKE THAT.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ACCEPT...
...
...IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT WANTING TO GET TO THE TOP.

HFFF...
HFFF...
SOMEONE REALLY SUSPICIOUS IS HANGING OUT IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE!
AND THEY'RE PANTING?!
HUH?! WHAT THE HECK?!
TA--
TAMA-CHAN --?
SCOOT SCOOT
HUH?
OH.
NIKO-KUN.

UM.
I WAS BURNING UP.
WHEW!
WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?
FLUMP
WELL, IF I GOT SPOTTED AGAIN, IT WOULD CAUSE TROUBLE FOR YOU.
FLUMP
I COULDN'T REACH YOUR CELL PHONE.
AND YOU WEREN'T ANSWERING YOUR DMS ON TWITTER.
OH, SHUT UP. WHAT OTHER CHOICE DID I HAVE?
UH, IF YOU'RE HANGING AROUND DRESSED LIKE THAT, YOU'D GET REPORTED TO THE POLICE FIRST.
HOW MANY LAYERS DO YOU HAVE ON, ANY-WAY?

THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO TELL YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HRK
...?!

OH--!
HUH?
WHA-
TAMA-CHAN, YOU TOOK OFF TOO MUCH!!

I, UM-- SORRY. TEND TO SPACE OUT LIKE THAT WHEN THERE ARE THINGS ON MY MIND.
YEAH, I KNOW. YOU USED TO CLOBBER ME A LOT, TOO.
I'M SORRY.
IT'S FINE.

ANY-
WAY.
IT'S
BEEN
SO
LONG.
I'M SORRY
I COULDN'T
MAKE IT TO
YOUR CON-
CERT, TOO.
...
IT'S
OKAY.
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.

OH.
YEAH..
I'M
OKAY..
WE EVEN
STARTED UP
THE BAND
AGAIN.

ANYWAY,
ARE YOU
DOING
OKAY?
HUH?
I
MEAN..
..AFTER
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO
FUUKA-
CHAN.

...
OH.

ANYWAY,
WHAT DID
YOU WANT
TO TELL
ME?
HUH?
OH,
THAT.
WELL..

WHAT?
I'M... GOING TO BE RETIRING FROM MUSIC.
I'M SURE IT'LL BE IN THE NEWS SOON, BUT I WANTED TO TELL YOU IN PERSON.
YOU'RE THE REASON I BECAME A SINGER, AFTER ALL.
CLATTER
HUH?
B-BUT WHY?!
THAT'S SUCH A WASTE!

THERE ISN'T ANYTHING WRONG, IS THERE?!
LIKE SOME SICKNESS THAT'S SO BAD YOU CAN'T SING ANYMORE?!

AH-- NO, NO!
I'M TOTALLY FINE!

HUH?
...I CAN'T DO IT.

THEN WHY?! YOU'VE MADE SO MANY GREAT SONGS!
I'M SURE EVERYONE WANTS TO HEAR YOU SING MORE.

...!
AH. I MEAN..

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN...
...KEEP MAKING SONGS THAT SELL FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
...!
WHAT WE WANT TO EXPRESS DOESN'T MATTER!
WHAT COUNTS IS MAKING SONGS THAT SELL, AND BRINGING IN MORE FANS!

HUH?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
EVEN IF I'M GONE, SOMEONE JUST LIKE ME WILL...
HOW CAN EVEN YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
YOU KNOW, FUU-KA...
SHE WAS REALLY MOVED BY THE SONGS YOU WROTE. SHE EVEN CRIED SOMETIMES!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D SAY THAT...
THAT YOU ONLY WROTE THEM TO MAKE MONEY!
...

IF YOU DON'T MAKE MONEY, THERE'S NO POINT IN SING-ING.
IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY WHEN IT'S YOUR JOB.
IT...
...!
YOU THINK I HAD A CHOICE?!
...YOU WANT TO EXPRESS SOMETHING.
...
NO MATTER HOW STRONG-LY-
ALL OF THE SONGS YOU WROTE?
...WAS IT ALL A FAKE?
THEN-

WAS THAT ALL JUST TO MAKE YOUR MUSIC SELL BETTER?!
AND WHEN YOU CAME TO MY FIRST CONCERT-
AND WHAT YOU SAID TO ME ON TV-

THAT--
...

SLAM

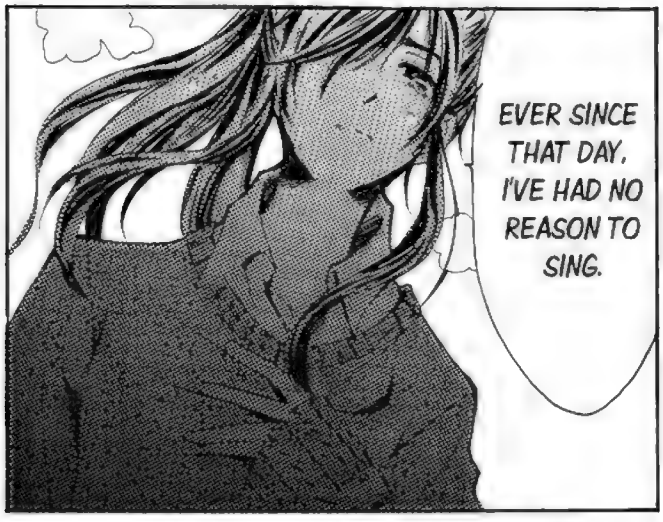
DASH
THAT'S RIGHT!
HEY --!!

...

IS THAT REALLY- WHAT THE MUSIC WORLD IS LIKE?
WHAT THE HECK --?

IS THAT ALL MUSIC IS?!

I'M HORRIBLE. GETTING JEALOUS OF FUUKA LIKE THAT.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THAT.


EVER SINCE THAT DAY, I'VE HAD NO REASON TO SING.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I THOUGHT OF NIKO-KUN WHEN I WAS WRITING MY SONGS...
...SORRY.
...NOT A SINGLE ONE OF MY FEELINGS REACHED HIM.

IF THAT'S HOW IT HAS TO BE, I'D RATHER RETIRE...
...SO WE CAN AT LEAST BE FRIENDS AGAIN, LIKE WE USED TO BE.

IF JUST BEING WITH HIM CAN ALWAYS MAKE ME SMILE...

I WANT US TO BE LIKE WE WERE BACK THEN.

ToBeorNotToBe
OPEN18:00 / START18:30
The Fallen Moon
Le-bard

I HOPE WE CAN PUT ON A GOOD SHOW TODAY.
OH-- YEAH, LET'S MAKE IT A FRIENDLY CONTEST.
JUST BECAUSE IT'S A BATTLE OF THE BANDS DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO FIGHT.
I HEARD YOU HAD TICKETS LEFT OVER?
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR IGNORING MY WARNING.
C'MON, MAN.
WHAT'D YOU SAY?!
KLAT
AH-- YUU-SAN!
I WON'T ACCEPT THAT!
I WON'T EVER ACCEPT IT!

HUH? THE ORDER?
YEAH. THE MORE POPULAR BAND USUALLY GOES SECOND.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
Fuuka

WELL. WE DON'T REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE.
LET'S GO WITH WHATEVER LE BARD WANTS TO DO.

OKAY IF WE GO FIRST, THEN?
I HATE WAITING.
...

51 CRAPPY SHOW.

WOOOOOO
ARE YOU GUYS IN THE BACK HAVING FUN?!
I SEE YOU OUT THERE!
EEE!!
YUUGA!!
...

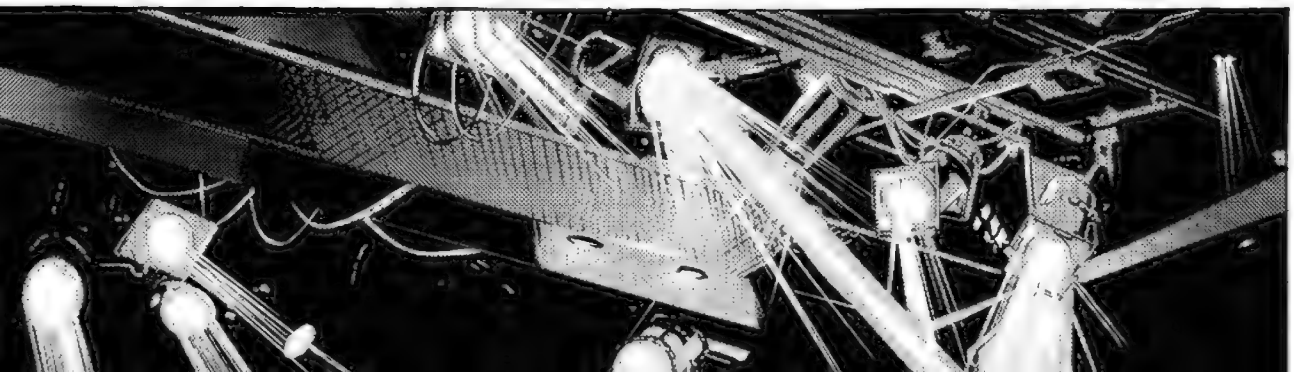
MAN. HE REALLY IS POPULAR.
GUESS THAT'S HOW IT GOES WHEN YOU'RE HOT AND A GOOD SINGER.
THAT'S NOT ALL IT IS.
HUH?

HE HAS THE ABILITY TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE HE'S MAKING EYE CONTACT WITH THE FANS WAY IN THE BACK.
THEY'RE ALWAYS SURE HE'S LOOKING RIGHT AT THEM.

AND DURING HIS TALK BREAKS, WHEN HE SENSES THE MOOD'S GETTING AWKWARD, HE CHANGES THE SUBJECT.
OR HE'LL EVEN MAKE USE OF THE AWKWARDNESS TO SHIFT THE PERSPECTIVE.
YEAH...
IF I HAD TO CALL IT SOME-THING...

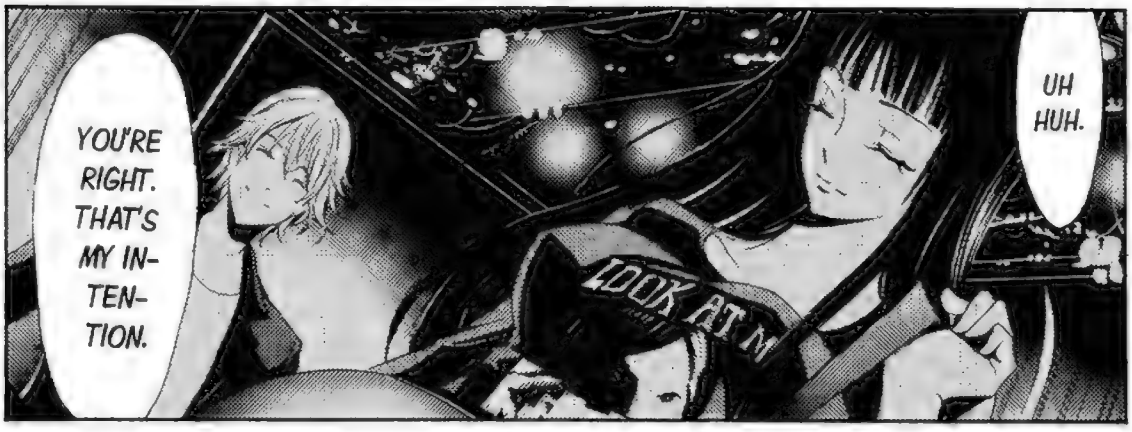
...I'D SAY HE'S JUST REALLY GOOD AT PUTTING ON A SHOW.
THAT'S YUUGA AKAGI.

...



WELL, LET'S JUST DO WHAT WE CAN.
COM-PETING WON'T DO US ANY GOOD.

MURMUR
MURMUR
SO, WHAT KIND OF BAND DO YOU THINK THE FALLEN MOON IS?
DUNNO-
BUT IF THEY'RE PLAYING AFTER LE BARD, THEY MUST BE PRETTY AMAZING, RIGHT?
52


UH HUH.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT'S MY IN-TEN-TION.
LOOK AT M

...

LET'S DO OUR BEST, YUU-SAN.
LOOK AT M

GRIP

UM.
YUU-SAN?

ROOOOAR
BWAAANG
BA-DUM
SPANG

DUN
DUN
OH... I KNOW THIS SONG!
IT'S THE HEDGE-HOGS!
WOW, SO THEY'RE A COVER BAND?
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
HUH?
...!

H-
HEY--
HARU-
NA!
BAM
BAM
BAM
WHA--?

MURMUR
HE'S-
I'M NOT REALLY SURE, BUT- KINDA WEIRD?
YEAH. HE SUCKS.
MURMUR
YUU-KUN.
ARE YOU REALLY SO-

WHAT COUNTS IS MAKING SONGS THAT SELL, AND BRINGING IN MORE FANS!
WHAT WE WANT TO EXPRESS DOESN'T MATTER!
JUST MONEY AND FAME?!
THEN WHAT PURPOSE IS THERE TO SINGING?!
IF YOU DON'T MAKE MONEY, THERE'S NO POINT IN SINGING.
IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY WHEN IT'S YOUR JOB.
I WON'T.

I WON'T EVER ACCEPT THAT!

HUH --?
HEY!
HE'S--!!
DUN
DUN
DUN
HEH.
DUN
DUN
DUN
IT'S ACTUALLY PAINFUL TO LISTEN TO.
AND HE'S BEEN MAK-ING WAY TOO MANY MISTAKES.
Pearl
HE'S NOT KEEPING TIME WITH THE BASS DRUM AT ALL.

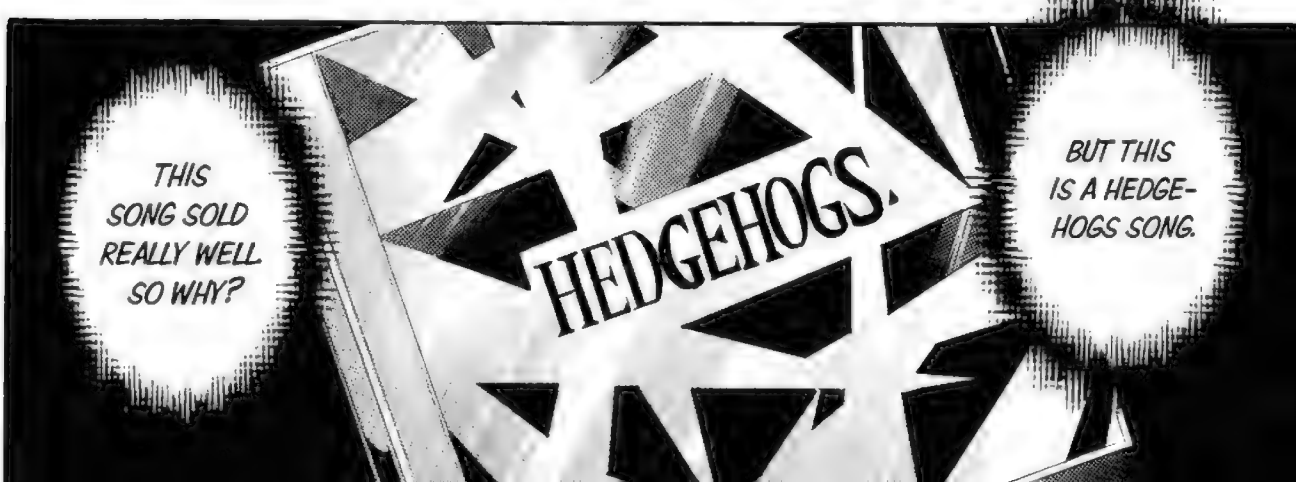
I GUESS I'LL LEAVE. I JUST CAME TO SEE LE BARD, ANY-WAY.
WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO?
...IS LIKE THE GLUE THAT HOLDS A BAND TOGETHER.
THE BASS...
...AND THE KEY-BOARD...
AND BECAUSE YOU'RE ALL WORKED UP AND GOING NUTS WITH IT, THE DRUMS...
OH, BOY.
...AND THE GUITAR ARE ALL OUT OF WHACK, TOO.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN...
...A CRAPPY SHOW LIKE THAT.

HOW COME?
HUFF...
HUFF...

...LISTEN TO US?
WHY WON'T THEY...

IS JUST TRYING TO MAKE MONEY THE RIGHT THING TO DO?
WAS I WRONG AFTER ALL?


THIS SONG SOLD REALLY WELL. SO WHY?
HEDGEHOGS.
BUT THIS IS A HEDGE-HOGS SONG.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TRY TO DO BASS AND VOCALS EVEN THOUGH YOU SUCK.
HOPE-LESS.
...

KLAT
KLAT

YUU-KUN...
HEY, HARUNA, ARE YOU --?

GRAB

WHOA!
KLONK
LOOK AT ME
NGH!!
DON'T USE MY BROTHER'S BAND'S SONG...
...FOR A JOKE OF A PERFOR-MANCE LIKE THAT!
HUH?

Fuuka

52 BECAUSE IT'S FUN.

...!!

YOU DON'T GET IT--!
H-HEY, CHILL OUT, IWAMI!

YOU'RE..
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S SUCH A GREAT SONG. BUT MY LOUSY SINGING AND BASS-PLAYING RUINED IT.

WOULD SHE BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU LET YOUR ANGER GET THE BEST OF YOU?
TO SEE YOU BE-HAVE SO SELFISH-LY?

HEY, YUU-KUN.
WHAT WOULD FUUKA THINK IF SHE SAW YOU NOW?
H U H ?

DID YOU FORGET WHAT YOU SAID TO US THE DAY WE FINISHED OUR FIRST ORIGINAL SONG?
I...
MY BROTHER ONCE SAID THE SAME THING.
THAT THAT'S WHAT BEING A BAND MEANT FOR US!

I WANT TO GET IT OUT THERE.
I CAN'T LET IT END HERE.

...
_I KNOW.
_WHEN HE TALKED ABOUT FUUKA THAT WAY.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS PISSED OFF_

...
C'MON, MAN. DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK?
YEAH, WHAT HE SAID.
PLEASE...
HELP ME OUT HERE.

ZWISSSH
THAT'S WHY WE ALL CAME BACK. ISN'T IT?

MOST OF THE CROWD IS ALREADY GONE.
WHAT. THEY'RE GOING TO KEEP PLAYING?

HM?

THIS IS THE LAST SONG WE HAVE TIME TO PLAY, BUT WE'LL TRY MUCH HARDER, SO WE HOPE YOU LISTEN.
I'M SORRY THIS TURNED OUT TO BE SUCH A LOUSY CONCERT.

-THE LAST SONG IN YOUR BAND'S CAREER, TOO.
JUST HOPE THIS DOESN'T TURN OUT TO BE-

IT'S CALLED, "FAIR WIND."
THIS IS THE FIRST ORIGINAL SONG WE WROTE.

TM
TM
BWEEEM
OH?

!!
BAN
THIS FEEL-ING...
OH, RIGHT.

WHEN WE'RE ALL IN PERFECT SYNC...
...AND IT'S LIKE SOMETHING'S PUSHING AT MY BACK.
LIKE WE JUST BELTED OUT SOMETHING HUGE.
THIS SOUND...
OUR SOUND... IS WHAT I WANTED TO SHARE WITH PEOPLE.

TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD...
...AND BEYOND!!

WHOA.
IT'S LIKE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON IS UP THERE!!
WH-WHAT'S WITH THAT KID?!
BUT WHEN I'M PLAYING IN THE BAND LIKE THIS, RIGHT NOW, AT THIS MOMENT...
SONGS THAT SELL, SONGS THAT SHARE SOMETHING-- I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY OF THAT.

GAH!!
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?!
JUMP
DO YOU KNOW WHAT A GREAT CONCERT REALLY IS?

IT WORKS. AND THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH IT.
USING A BUNCH OF GIMMICKS TO ATTRACT FANS LIKE YOU DO...

BUT A TRULY GREAT CONCERT IS ONE THAT GETS YOUR BODY MOVING, EVEN TO SONGS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD BEFORE!!
THAT IS WHERE SONGS THAT SELL, AND BANDS THAT SELL, REALLY COME FROM!!

OTHER THAN THIS LAST SONG, THIS HAS BEEN A DAMN LOUSY SHOW!!
...
OF COURSE, THIS KID IS PRETTY IN-CONSISTENT, THOUGH!

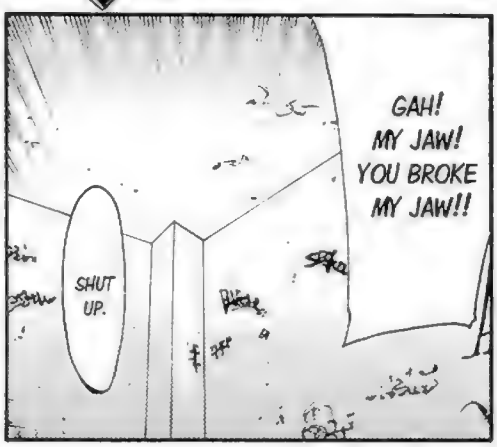
HEH...
...

WE'VE WON THIS CONTEST ALREADY.
TAP
TAP
TAP
A "GOOD CONCERT," MY ASS.

I'M SO SORRY!!
I-
U-UM-- I'M FINE, REALLY.
LET'S GO TO THE HOSPITAL AND GET YOUR BRAIN CHECKED.
OF COURSE YOU ARE! I HIT YOU WITH A MIC STAND!!
AH!! YOU'RE HURT, AREN'T YOU?!
I KIND OF TURN INTO A DIFFERENT PERSON ON STAGE.
YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU SAY IT THAT WAY-
YOU'RE ONE VIOLENT CHICK, AREN'T YOU?
HUH?
REALLY?
ACTUALLY, YOU REMINDED ME OF SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT, SARA-SENPAI.
SO I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU.

!!
KLONK

YO.
KA-CHAK


GAH! MY JAW! YOU BROKE MY JAW!!
SHUT UP.

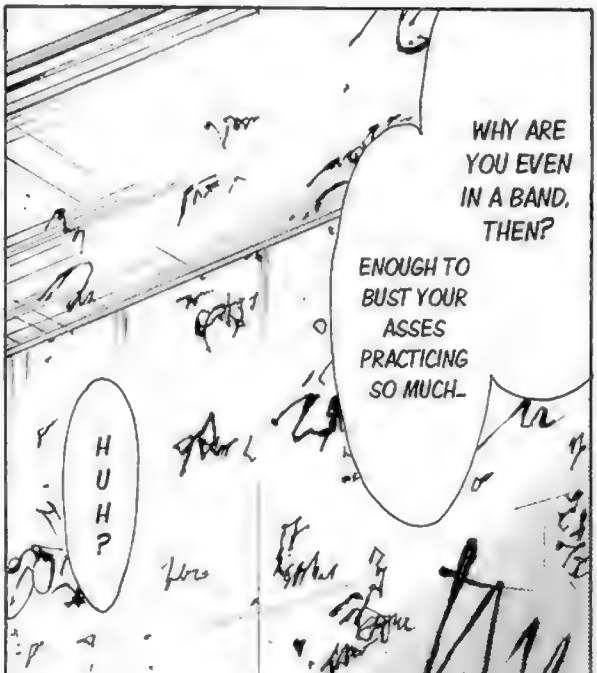
SOUNDS LIKE YOU GUYS ARE HAVING A GOOD TIME..
..CON-SIDERING THE MESS OF A GIG YOU JUST PLAYED.

WHA-
WHAT?
JUST SO YOU KNOW. WE WON THE--

HUH?
I'M SORRY I WAS RUDE TO YOU!

BUT I KNOW WE LOST THIS TIME.
I STILL CAN'T ACCEPT THE WAY YOU THINK.

...


HUH?
WHY ARE YOU EVEN IN A BAND, THEN?
ENOUGH TO BUST YOUR ASSES PRACTICING SO MUCH-

...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I GUESS...
BECAUSE IT'S FUN.

HUH?

SLAM
AH—!
ARE YOU A BUNCH OF IDIOTS?
JEEZ…
HEY, YUUGA, DID YOU PATCH THINGS UP?
FIGHTING IS NEVER GOOD.
TAK
TAK
HUH? THERE WAS NOTHING TO PATCH UP.
BECAUSE IT'S FUN, HUH?

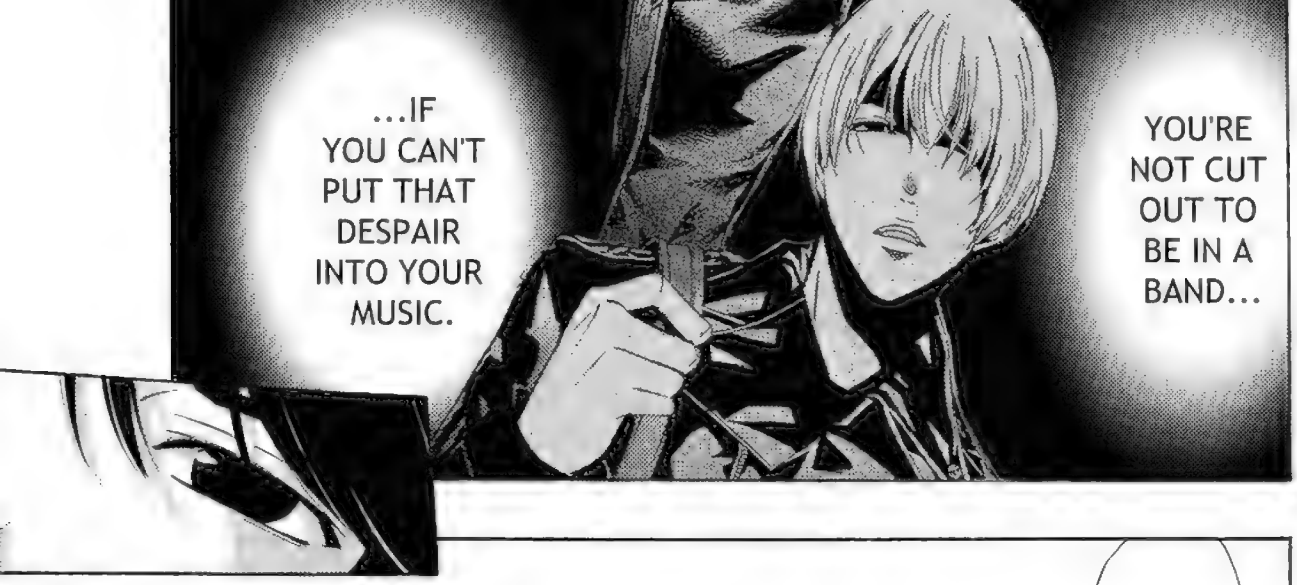
A NEW SONG?
HUH..?
Fuuka
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW YET IF WE'LL GET TO BE IN LIGHTNING REBELLION.
IF WE'RE GOING TO DO MORE GIGS WITH THE INTENT OF GOING PRO, WE CAN'T DO COVERS FOREVER, RIGHT?
YEAH, AND YOU'LL BE WRITING THEM!
WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE IT'S SOMEONE ELSE'S JOB?
M-ME?!
PLAIN UDON AGAIN?
..BUT WE CAN KEEP ADDING NEW SONGS, BIT BY BIT.
KLAK
THAT'S TRUE.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO JUST SUDDENLY PLAY A TOTALLY ORIGINAL SET..

YES, YOU! WE ALL CAME BACK BECAUSE WE LIKED YOUR SONG.
WHAT'S THE POINT IF IT'S NOT THE MUSIC YOU WANT TO EXPRESS?
OF COURSE, WE'LL HELP WITH THE ARRANGE-MENTS...
...BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE TO WRITE OUR SONGS.
R-RIGHT.
DONBURI
YOU'LL BE FINE, YUU-SAN.
EVEN MY BROTHER SAID GOOD THINGS ABOUT "FAIR WIND."
...
OKAY.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
DING DONG DING
カーン コーン キーン

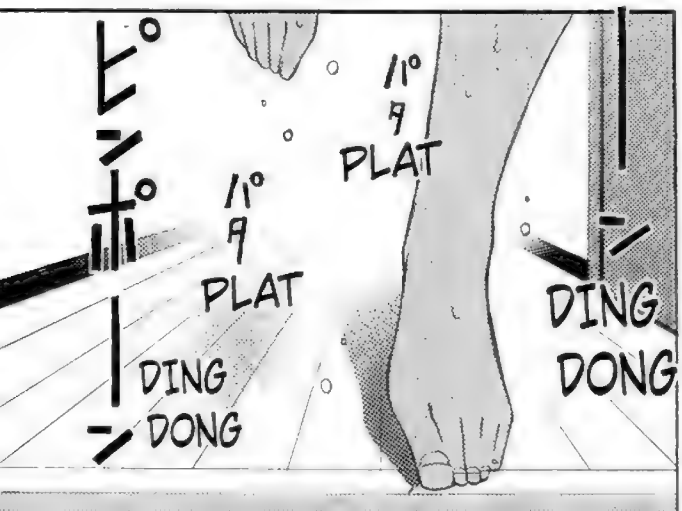
Fuuka

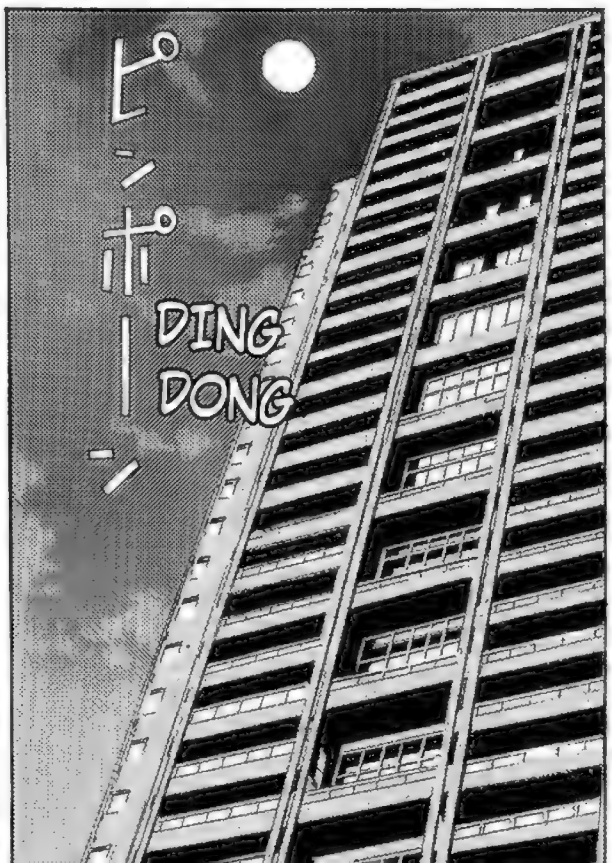
53 A HIGHER PLACE.

I KIND OF WROTE OUR FIRST SONG ON SHEER MOMENTUM.
IF I'M GOING TO KEEP WRITING SONGS, I'LL PROBABLY NEED MORE...
TELLING ME TO "WRITE WHAT I WANT TO EXPRESS" DOESN'T HELP.
WHAT WE WANT TO EXPRESS DOESN'T MATTER.
I'VE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT THAT.
...
I BLEW OFF WHAT HE SAID LIKE I WAS SOME KIND OF BIGSHOT.
BUT THEN, WHAT IS IT THAT I WANT TO EXPRESS?



NAMEPLATE: IWAMI





KA-CHAK
YOU HAVE A KEY, DON'T YOU, BRO?
KNOCK IT OFF! JUST LET YOURSELF IN!

HI...?
UH...

YUU-SA-!
HUH?!

JAB
I-I'M SORRY! I WANTED TO ASK HISASHI-SAN SOME-THING--
GAAAAH!
TELL ME FIRST IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME OVER! IDIOT!!
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?
MY EYES!
MY EYES!!

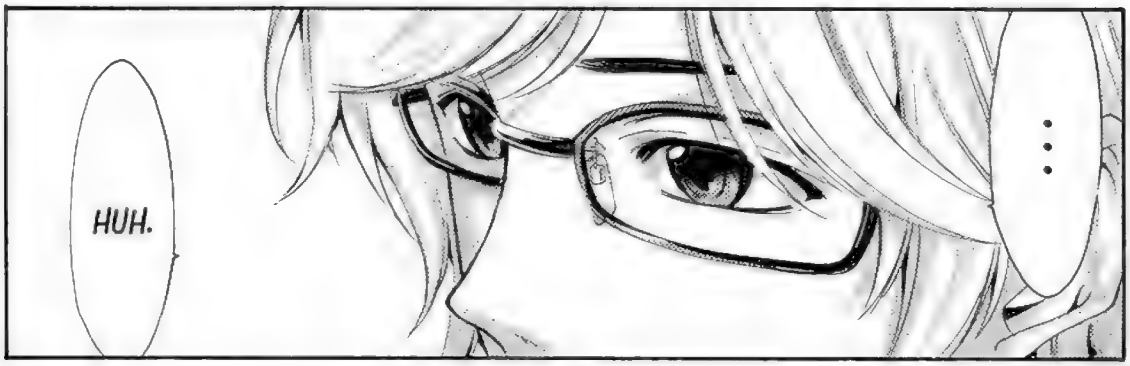
FROM NOW ON, CALL BEFORE YOU COME OVER.
S-SORRY...

I SEE. SO THAT'S WHAT YOU CAME HERE TO FIND OUT.
YES... I'M SORRY TO COME OVER SO LATE.

I'M NOT SURE I CAN TELL YOU ANYTHING VERY HELPFUL.
NIKO WROTE ALMOST ALL OF OUR SONGS.
IT'S HARD TO SAY WHAT WE WANTED TO EXPRESS, THOUGH.

...THAT I COULDN'T MAKE MUSIC IF I COULDN'T PUT MY DESPAIR INTO IT.
I MET NIKO-SAN... ONCE BEFORE, AND HE TOLD ME...

I NEVER SENSED DESPAIR IN ANY OF THEM.
BUT THE HEDGEHOGS WROTE REALLY POSITIVE... OR AT LEAST, REALLY UPBEAT SONGS, RIGHT?


HUH.
...

KLAK
カチャ…
WELL, NIKO'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT HIMSELF.
FOR A WHILE, HE WAS IN THE LOWEST PLACE YOU COULD IMAGINE.

HUH—?
IT'S RARE FOR HIM TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ANYONE.

BUT EVEN THEN, IT STILL SEEMED LIKE HIS EYES...

...WERE ALWAYS LOOKING AHEAD, TO A MUCH HIGHER PLACE.

YUU-SAN, YOUR EYES-
-LOOKED LIKE THAT, TOO.
HUH?
WHEN YOU ASKED ME TO COME BACK TO THE BAND.

BE MORE CON-FIDENT.
GWRMPH!!
I THINK THE MUSIC YOU WRITE IS GREAT.
PBBBT

HE WAS PROBABLY JUST LOOKING UP AT YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE SO HUGE.
STOMP

I JUST SLAM WHATEVER I'M THINKING DOWN ON THE PAPER.
NO WAY... MY SONG WAS A MESS UNTIL YOU GUYS FIXED IT UP.

...
KOFF
HACK!!

BUT--!
I THINK THAT'S ALL IT TAKES.

...BUT THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE, TOO.
IT'S TRUE THAT SOME SONGS CAN ONLY BE WRITTEN AFTER YOUR WORLD HAS EXPANDED AND YOU'VE HAD MORE EXPERIENCE...

...CAN BE CONCENTRATED INTO REALLY RICH, PASSIONATE FEELINGS.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY THINGS THAT SEEM TRIVIAL FROM AN ADULT'S PERSPECTIVE...
RIGHT NOW, YOUR NARROW WORLD IS EVERYTHING TO YOU.
待って、颯夏
颯夏が武道館で待つ。
…返せ
心に刻んだ
もしもし優くん?
云いたいよォ!!

ANYTHING IS FINE.
DREAMS... FAIL-URES...
JUST THROW EVERY-THING YOU HAVE AT IT.
I'M SURE THAT'S THE THING THAT ONLY YOU, AS YOU ARE NOW, CAN MAKE.
AS I AM NOW...
...

I'M NOT GONNA PLAY BUDDY-BUDDY WITH YOU OR ANYTHING.
WE CAME BACK FOR OUR OWN SAKES.

...FROM A PLACE MUCH HIGHER THAN ANY BUILDING.
THERE ARE SIGHTS I WANT TO SEE...

...I BE-LIEVE WE CAN GET THERE.
WITH THE FOUR OF US...

HUH?!
CLATTER
YEAH! I THINK I GET IT.
THANK YOU, SARA-SENPAI!

...

OH, ALSO. TRY TO KEEP ROMANCE WITH OTHER MEMBERS TO A MINIMUM.
THAT STUFF CAN BREAK UP A BAND.
...
WHY... ME?
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT!
9
SLAM
BWAUGH!!
STOMP
...WOULD BE FULL OF NOTHING BUT DESPAIR.
I THOUGHT A WORLD WITHOUT FUUKA...

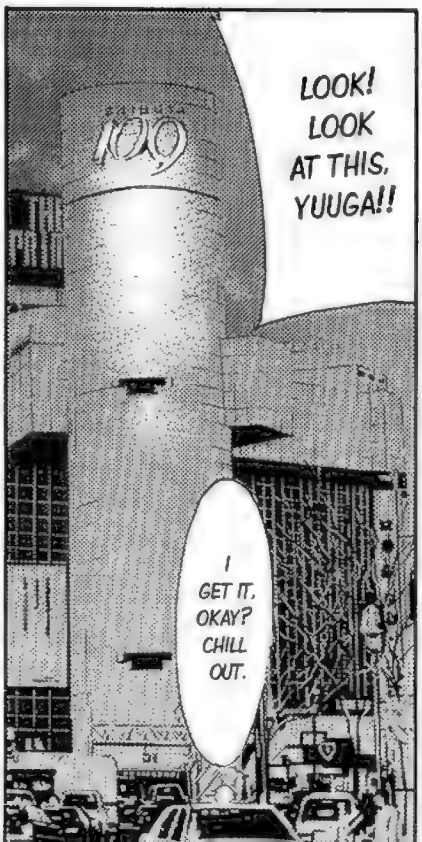
I'M SURE THE OTHERS CAME BACK TO THE BAND BECAUSE THEY SENSED THAT.
BUT HER WISHES ARE STILL LIVING INSIDE ME.
SO I JUST HAVE TO TURN THAT INTO OUR MUSIC.
THE BLINDING HOPE THAT I CAN SEE...
...BEYOND THE WORLD OF DESPAIR!

NOTICE OF LIVE PERFORMANCE SCREENIN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR APPLICATION TO LIGHTNING REBELL
WE ARE PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR BAND HA
PASSED THE DEMO TAPE SCREENING AND WILL ADVANC
TO THE SECOND SCREENING (LIVE PERFORMANCE).

OH MY GOD!! GRAND-MA!!

YOU SHOULD BE HAPPIER ABOUT THIS.
BUT WE PASSED THE FIRST SCREEN-ING!
IT WAS OBVIOUS WE'D PASS. DON'T FLIP OUT OVER EVERY LITTLE THING.



NOTICE OF
THANK YOU FO
WE ARE PL
PASSED T
TO TH
ZZSSSH
I'M SURE...
...HE'LL BE THERE, TOO!

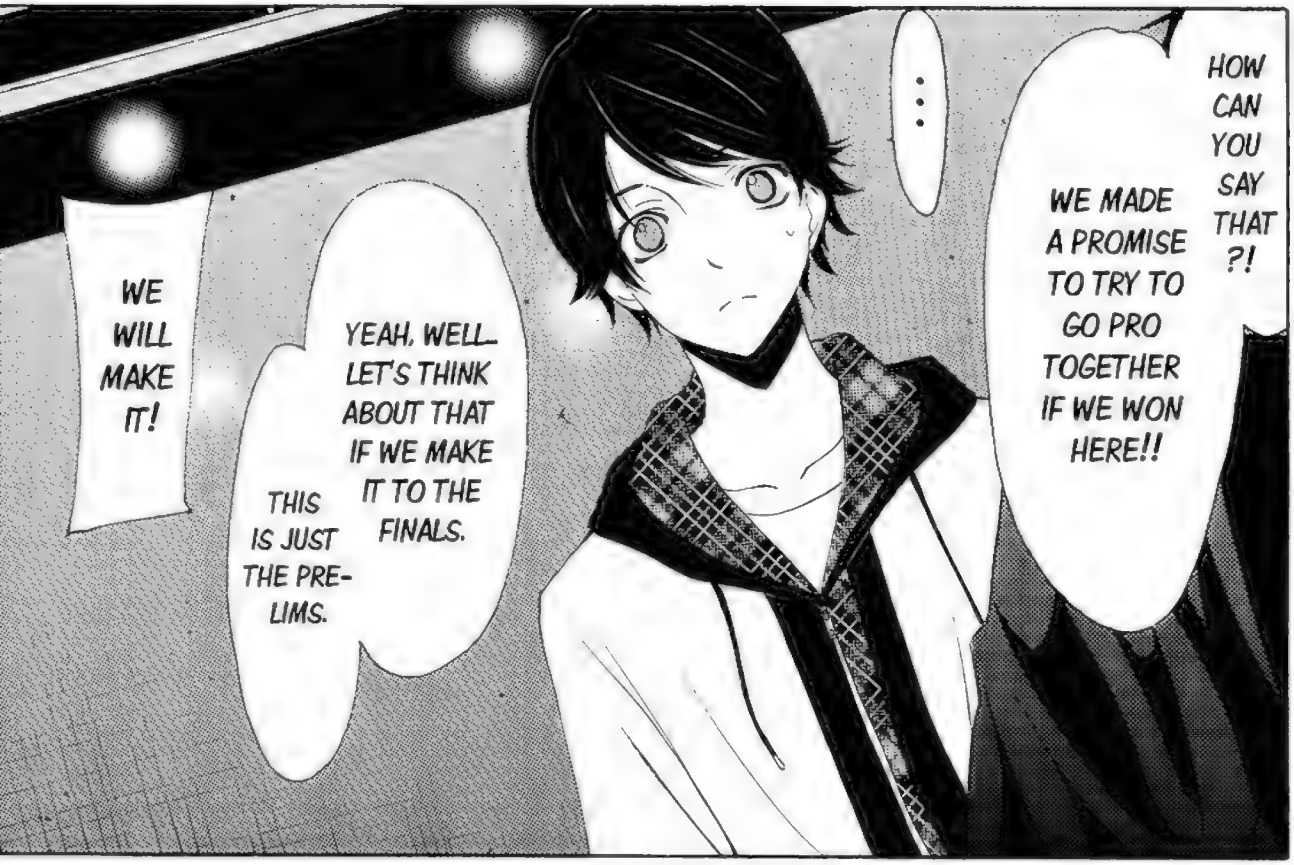
LIGHTNING REBELLION
TOKYO PRELIMINARIES
(DAY 1)
PERFORMANCE
JUDGING SITE

54 SERIOUS BATTLE.

Fuuka

THERE SHE IS!
H-HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE'LL NEVER WIN THAT WAY!
...!

YEAH. WE START STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS THIS YEAR. SO JUST PASSING THE FIRST ROUND WILL BE A GOOD MEMORY.
CLICK
C'MON. IT'S A MIRACLE WE EVEN GOT THIS FAR.


WE WILL MAKE IT!
YEAH. WELL... LET'S THINK ABOUT THAT IF WE MAKE IT TO THE FINALS.
THIS IS JUST THE PRE-LIMS.
...
WE MADE A PROMISE TO TRY TO GO PRO TOGETHER IF WE WON HERE!!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!

ATTEN-TION, EVERY-ONE!!

...THIS IS A BAD TIME TO TALK TO HER.
LOOKS LIKE...

I'M MOGAMI, THE HEAD JUDGE FOR LIGHTNING REBELLION.
CONGRAT-ULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU FOR PASSING THE FIRST SCREENING!
WAIT--! MOGAMI, AS IN THE MOGAMI-SAN?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?! HE'S HERE JUST TO SEE A REGIONAL PRELIM ROUND?!
WH-WHO IS THAT?
HUH? HE'S IN MAGA-ZINES AND ON TV ALL THE TIME.
HE'S A MUSIC PRO-DUCER WHO'S MADE TONS OF YOUNG ARTISTS FAMOUS.
HE USED TO BE A MUSICIAN, AND HE'S COMPOSED MUSIC FOR LOTS OF ARTISTS, TOO.
WOW... YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS STUFF, SARA-SENPAI.

AUDIENCE REACTIONS WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED IN THE JUDGING. SO PUT ON YOUR BEST SHOW!
I BELIEVE WE'LL HAVE A CROWD OF ABOUT SIX HUNDRED.
WE'LL BE ALLOWING THE AUDIENCE TO ENTER SHORTLY.

...AND FRANKLY, THEY'RE ALL VERY ROUGH. I CAN'T IMAGINE THEM MAKING IT IN THE PRO RANKS.
BY THE WAY, I'VE LISTENED TO ALL OF YOUR SONGS...

IT'S THE SHINING LIGHT OF THE RAW GEMS AMONG YOU...
BUT...
WHAT I'M HERE TO SEE ISN'T THE FLAWLESS MUSIC OF THE PROS.

...

MURMUR

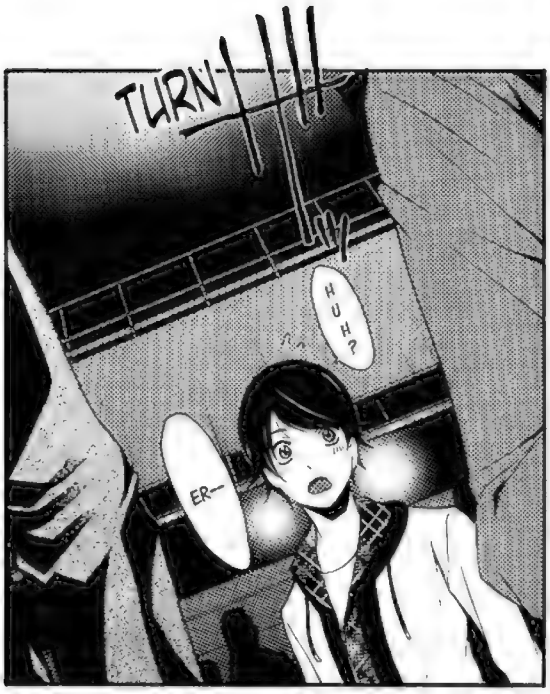
EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THE TWENTY ACTS HERE HOLDS THE RIGHT TO STAND VICTORIOUS!
I WANT YOU ALL TO EXERCISE THAT RIGHT, AND PUT ON A SHOW AWE-SOME ENOUGH TO PROVE ME WRONG!!

AND THE EXPLOSION OF CHEMISTRY WHEN YOU ALL FACE THE AUDIENCE!
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THOSE RAW GEMS WILL SHINE BLINDINGLY BRIGHT!!

I CAN'T SAY I DISLIKE PEOPLE LIKE THAT.
H-HE SEEMS LIKE REALLY PASSIONATE PERSON.
I'M NOT GOOD AT DEALING WITH THOSE...

LET'S SEE, THAT'S... LE BARD!
ALL RIGHT, IT'S TIME TO GET STARTED. LET'S HAVE THE FIRST ACT GET READY.

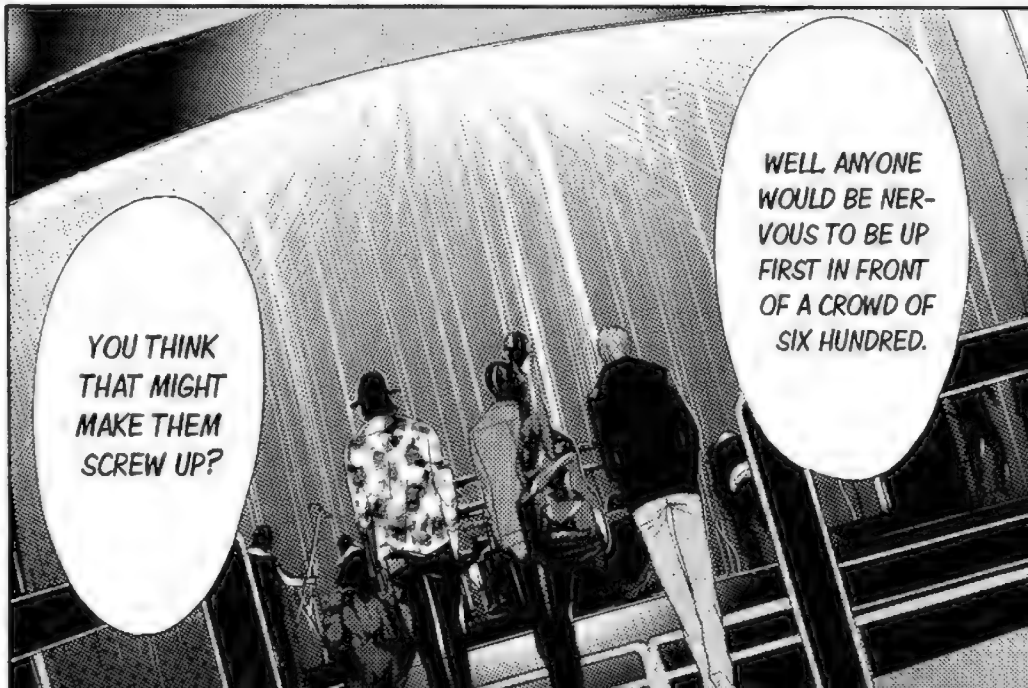
HERE.
WE'LL DO OUR BEST TODAY, TOO!
WE'LL GET OUR REVENGE!!
U-UM--!
OH. YOU'RE IN THIS?


TURN
HUH?
ER—

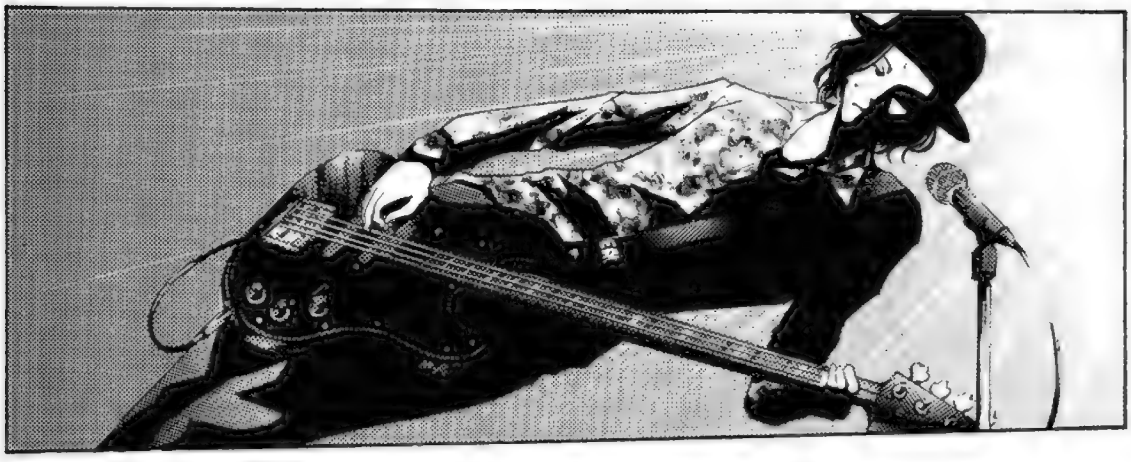
...
SURE.

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECTED, WHY'D YOU TALK TO HIM?
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT? I WAS SURE HE'D SAY SOMETHING MEAN AGAIN.

...
WOULD IT?


YOU THINK THAT MIGHT MAKE THEM SCREW UP?
WELL, ANYONE WOULD BE NERVOUS TO BE UP FIRST IN FRONT OF A CROWD OF SIX HUNDRED.

WOOOOOO

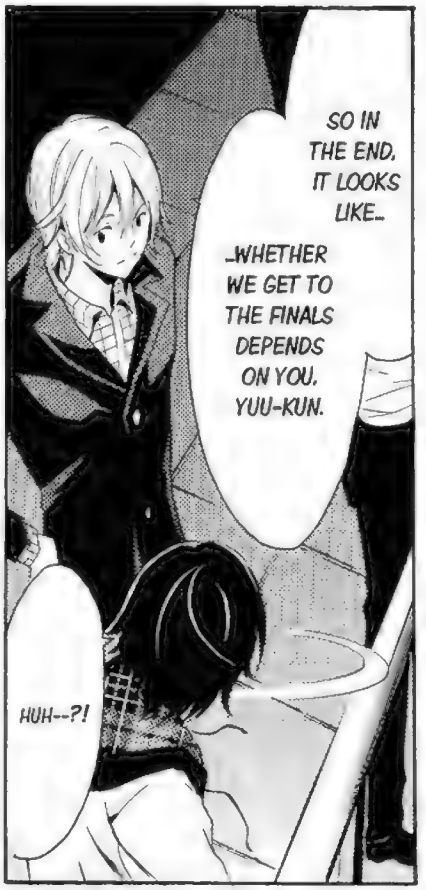


WOOOOOO

SHUT UP!!
SHE'S RIGHT.
I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING MESSED UP ABOUT HOPING SOMEONE WILL FAIL ANYWAY.
TH-THEY'RE REAL CROWD-PLEASERS.

I HOPE YOU'LL AT LEAST REMEMBER US UNTIL YOU GO HOME TODAY!!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

BUT YOU JUST WENT, HARUNA!
I..I'M GOING TO THE REST-ROOM!


SO IN THE END, IT LOOKS LIKE..
..WHETHER WE GET TO THE FINALS DEPENDS ON YOU, YUU-KUN.
HUH--?!

YOU THINK OUR VOCALIST IS OKAY?
NO WAY TO KNOW THAT UNTIL WE GET STARTED.

TOILET
FSSHHHH...

YUU-KUN?
NOTHING THAT TIME...
OF COURSE.
AH.
AOI...
I KNEW IT!
YOU CAN CALL ME FUUKA.
I...
...CAN'T DO THAT.
I KNEW I'D SEE YOU HERE!

UM.
EARLIER, YOU WERE--
OUR BAND IS AWESOME.
I'LL GIVE YOU A WARN-ING.
HUH --?
TMP
IF YOU WANT TO WIN, YOU'D BETTER TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY.
...

DON'T BE LIKE THAT, MOGAMI-SAN.
OH, YEAH?
THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD SAY TO YOU!

I TOLD YOU, I'M ONLY HERE TO MAKE CERTAIN OF THE FINAL CALL.
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST WATCH THE OTHER BANDS AFTER LE BARD. YOU'RE THE HEAD JUDGE, YOU KNOW.

MOGAMI-SAN, RIGHT?
THAT'S-

I WAS GLAD TO SEE LE BARD PUT ON A GOOD SHOW, THOUGH.
EVEN IF THEIR VICTORY IS ASSURED, I COULD HARDLY PROMOTE THEM AFTER A BAD PERFORMANCE.

WH-WHAT DOES HE MEAN?
IS HE SAYING THIS FES-TIVAL
...IS RIGGED?
...!
WHAT --?

I WAS QUITE SERIOUS IN MY DE-CISION.
AND I CAME TO WATCH LE BARD'S PERFOR-MANCE.
IS IT REALLY OKAY, THOUGH? CALLING IT A "SERI-OUS BATTLE" HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE BIG DRAW OF THIS FESTIVAL.

...
IT TAKES A CERTAIN TYPE TO PURSUE A DREAM.
THAT'S WHAT THE MUSIC IN-DUSTRY IS LIKE.
SO IF I GIVE THEM THE PRESTIGE OF A WIN AT REBELLION, I CAN MAKE THEIR DEBUT MORE DRA-MATIC.
THEY HAVE BOTH LOOKS AND TALENT. THEY'RE EVERY-THING THE RUMORS SAID THEY WERE.

カチャ
KA-CHAK
HUH --?!
ODAST
WHOA!!
?!
OPPAIKOD
PIS
WHAT_
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING_?

Fuuka
? FUUKA

IZU CITY, SHIZUOKA
1ST STEP
!!
WOW!
THE OCEAN IS SUCH A PRETTY COLOR!!
FUUKA AKITSUKI, 9TH GRADE

JEEZ, SHE ALWAYS TAKES OFF WITHOUT WARNING.
SHE'S A LITTLE WEIRD, ISN'T SHE?

HEY, WHERE'S FUUKA?
I DON'T KNOW. SHE WAS JUST HERE A SECOND AGO.

LOOKS LIKE I FOUND A GREAT SPOT.
WOW-- THERE'S NO ONE AROUND HERE.

HEY!!

HUH?
WHAT IS A GUITAR DOING HERE?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
DON'T TOUCH MY GUI-TAR!

OH!
SORRY! I THOUGHT SOMEONE FORGOT IT HERE.

WHO ARE YOU?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BE-FORE.
OH-- I'M HERE ON A SCHOOL TRIP!
WE GOT HERE FROM TOKYO THIS MORN-ING.
...

WOOO
WOOO
I THOUGHT THE PLACE SEEMED AWFULLY NOISY.
NO WONDER.
HUH?
HEY, SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ANYWAY?
SOME KIND OF GAME ONLY THE LOCALS KNOW?
NAH.
I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.
FOR WHAT?
MY GUITAR PICK.
I DROPPED IT WHILE I WAS PLAYING MY GUITAR HERE.

A PICK.
LIKE THE THING YOU BREAK ICE WITH?
THAT'S AN ICEPICK! I'M TALKING ABOUT A PICK!
THE TRI-ANGULAR THING YOU PLAY A GUITAR WITH!
OH!
YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE, DO YOU?

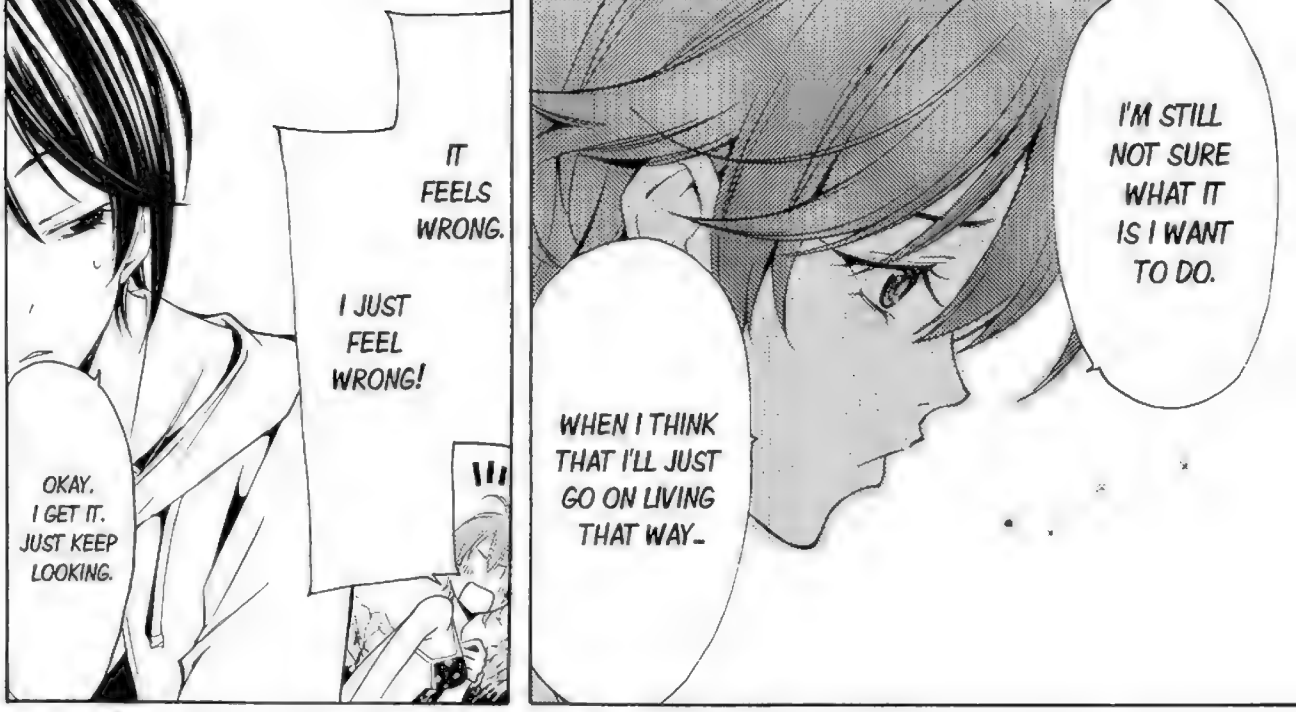
OKAY, I'LL HELP YOU!
LET'S FIND YOUR PICK.

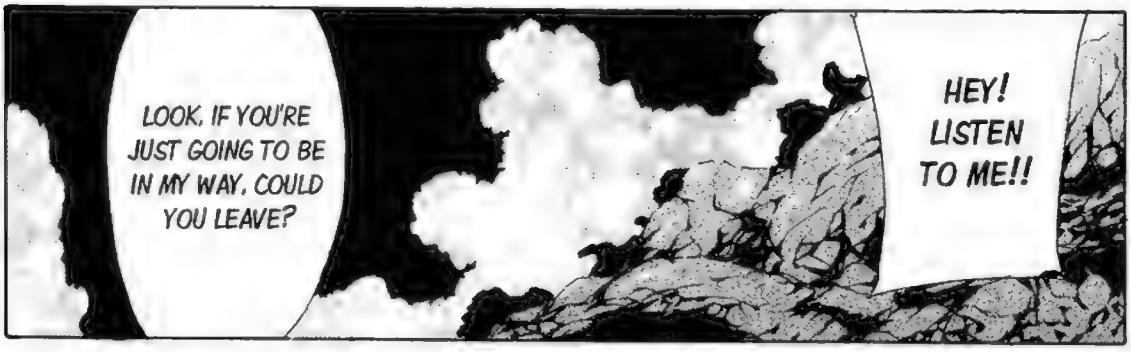
...
WEIRD GIRL

IT'S FINE! WE CAN FIND IT FASTER TOGETHER.
HEY, IT'S DAN-GEROUS TO RUN HERE!

HUH?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO--

ZZSSSHH
YOU'RE ON A SCHOOL TRIP. GO HANG OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
ANYWAY, SHOULD YOU REALLY BE DOING THIS?
WHEN WE GO SHOPPING, OR GO EAT SOME TASTY SWEETS TOGETHER-
I HAVE FUN WITH THEM, BUT- I DON'T KNOW.
IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.
MM.
YEAH, BUT-
WHEN I'M HANGING OUT WITH THEM, I SOMETIMES GET THIS UN-EASY FEELING.


I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT IT IS I WANT TO DO.
WHEN I THINK THAT I'LL JUST GO ON LIVING THAT WAY...
IT FEELS WRONG.
I JUST FEEL WRONG!
!!!
OKAY. I GET IT. JUST KEEP LOOKING.


HEY! LISTEN TO ME!!
LOOK, IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO BE IN MY WAY, COULD YOU LEAVE?

...
IT'S NOT THE MON-EY.

THAT PICK WAS SPECIAL, I GUESS.

HMPH...
IS IT THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?
YOUR PICK, I MEAN.
WAS IT REALLY EXPEN-SIVE?

IT'S MY TREASURE.
ROOOOAR
FLICK
WOODSTOCK FESTIVAL
AUGUST 15-17

WHEN I CAUGHT THAT PICK AT THE HEDGE-HOGS CONCERT, I FELT LIKE...
...IT WAS TELLING ME TO GO INTO MUSIC.
WOODSTOCK FESTIVAL

SO... THAT PICK IS A PRICELESS TREASURE THAT GAVE ME MY DREAM.

SLIP
WHOA --!!
HUH?
DID YOU FIND IT?!
HEY-- I JUST SAW SOME-THING SHIN-ING.
I SEE.
THEN WE HAVE TO...

HEY !!
ARE YOU OKAY ?!
KER-SPLOOSH
SPLASH
HEDGEHOGS
IS THIS IT?!

HEDGEHOGS

ERGH.
O-OKAY, BUT-
I LOVE THE HEDGE-HOGS, TOO!
HEY, SINCE YOU'VE GOT YOUR PICK BACK, PLAY A SONG!

IT'S FINE! JUST PLAY!
I'M NOT THAT GOOD.

STRUM
I CAN PLAY "THE TOWN WHERE THE STARS FALL."
OKAY.

I'M SO GLAD-
-WE FOUND IT.
THANKS.

WOW.
...

WHAT?! THAT WAS TOO SHORT!
I WANNA HEAR MORE!
LIS-TEN TO THE CD.
MEAN-IE!
-THAT'S ABOUT IT.

OH.
FUU-KA! WHERE DID YOU GO?!

THEY'RE GETTING WORRIED.
I'VE GOTTA GO.

I'M...
FUUKA AOI.

HUH? YOUR NAME'S FUUKA?
YEAH! FUUKA AKITSUKI!

HUH --?

WELL...
I BETTER GET GOING!
...YEAH.

OH.
FUUKA!

I... I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.
MI-RA-CLE!
NO?!
IT'S GOTTA BE A MIRA-CLE!
WOW! IS THIS FATE?!

HM?
AH--!
HEY!
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND...
...A TREASURE OF YOUR OWN, TOO.

...
YEAH.
OKAY.

SEE YA... FUUKA!
SLAP
#? THE END

Fuuka CHARACTER

Character Concept Collection No.7

NAME

FUUKA AOI

DATA

Birthday: July 20th
Height: 162cm (5' 4")
Weight: 46kg (101lb)
Blood Type: B
Measurements: 89-58-87
(35-23-34)

FAVORITES

- Singing
- Guitar
- The Sea

DISLIKES

- Excuses
- Unfairness
- Bugs

FAVORITE GUITARIST

- Hisashi (Hedgehogs)

Fuuka Aoi

Fuuka CHARACTER

Character Concept Collection No.8

NAME

YUUGA AKAGI

DATA

Birthday: April 22nd
Height: 181cm (5' 11")
Weight: 62kg (137lb)
Blood Type: B

FAVORITES

- Being in the Spotlight
- Winning
- Concerts

DISLIKES

- Being Alone
- Losing
- Naivety

FAVORITE BRAND NAME

- Rage Blue

Yuuga Akagi

***Fuuka* volume 6**

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

STORY AND ART BY KOUJI SEO

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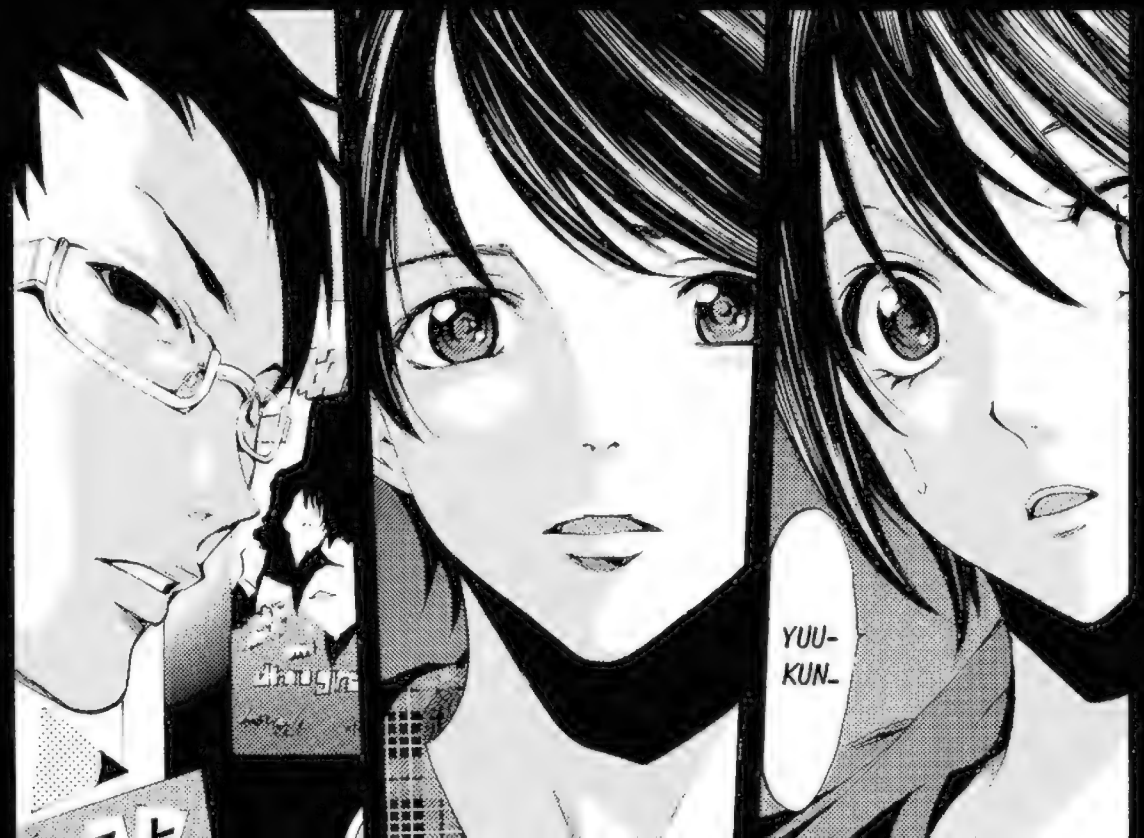
Fuuka

55 THE AUDIENCE WE WANT TO REACH.



SO, LOOK...
DON'T GO AROUND SPREADING WEIRD RUMORS, OKAY?
CLATTER
N-NOW, LIS-TEN!!
WE DIDN'T MEAN IT'S ACTUALLY DECIDED.
THAT WAS JUST ...IDLE CHAT. YOU KNOW, LIKE, GUESSING WHO'LL WIN...
YEAH! IT WAS A GUESS!!
BUT YOU JUST SAID LE BARD'S VICTORY IS ASSURED.
IS THAT THE SORT OF THING...
...ADULTS DO?
C'MON, I JUST TOLD YOU--
THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT'S THE SORT OF THING...
...ADULTS DO.

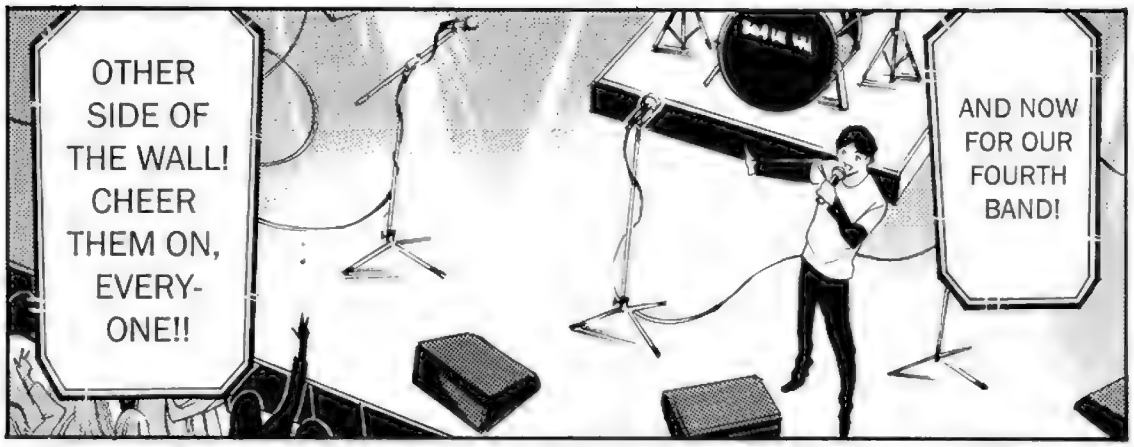
HEY, MO-GAMI-SAN--
IF YOU WANT TO TELL PEOPLE, GO AHEAD.
...
...!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, YOU'LL ONLY HU-MILIATE YOUR-SELVES.
BUT WHO'S GOING TO BELIEVE YOU? YOU'LL JUST SOUND LIKE A SORE LOSER.
CLENCH
ALL RIGHT.
THAT'S HOW AMAZING LE BARD WAS TODAY.

...SURE.
THEY JUST MIGHT.
...THE RESULTS WILL CHANGE, RIGHT?
THEN IF WE PUT ON AN EVEN BETTER SHOW...

#11 TURN
AH, YUU-KUN--!
ALL RIGHT.

STILL, WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE SURE.
JUST IN CASE...
IF A BAND COULD SELL JUST BY BEING GOOD, LIFE WOULD BE EASY.
THEIR DEMO TAPE WAS PRETTY GOOD, TOO.
SHOULD YOU HAVE SAID THAT?
WAIT UP!

EVEN IF WE GIVE A GOOD SHOW...
I WONDER IF IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE TO CHANGE HIS MIND. STILL...
YOU SEEM LIKE SUCH A MEEK KID. BUT YOU REALLY LET HIM HAVE IT.
THAT SURPRISED ME.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
YEAH...
I'M MORE SURPRISED THAN ANYONE.
BUT THAT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER.
HUH?
THE AUDIENCE WE WANT TO REACH WITH OUR MUSIC...
...ISN'T SOME BIGSHOT PRODUCER.


OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL! CHEER THEM ON, EVERY-ONE!!
AND NOW FOR OUR FOURTH BAND!

I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT.
DON'T JINX US RIGHT BEFORE WE GO ON.
...
NO.
CON-STI-PAT-ED?
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH, HARUNA.

...YEAH.
I GUESS WE SHOULD GET READY AFTER WE WATCH THIS NEXT ACT.

WOOOOO
THE AUDIENCE WE WANT TO REACH WITH OUR MUSIC...
...

LET'S MAKE THIS THE BEST PER-FORMANCE EVER!
SO AMAZ-ING, IT'LL BLOW THE AUDIENCE AWAY!!
HEY, GUYS...
HUH?

SCUM.
...
NONE OF THE BANDS SINCE LE BARD HAVE REALLY STOOD OUT.
YOU THINK WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE AT WINNING?!

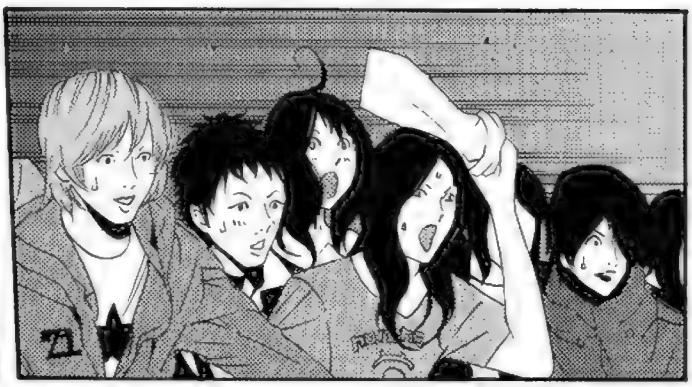
YEAH...
WE KNOW THAT!
WE WON'T SLACK OFF!

HUH?

I HEAR THIS BAND...
...IS PRETTY GOOD.

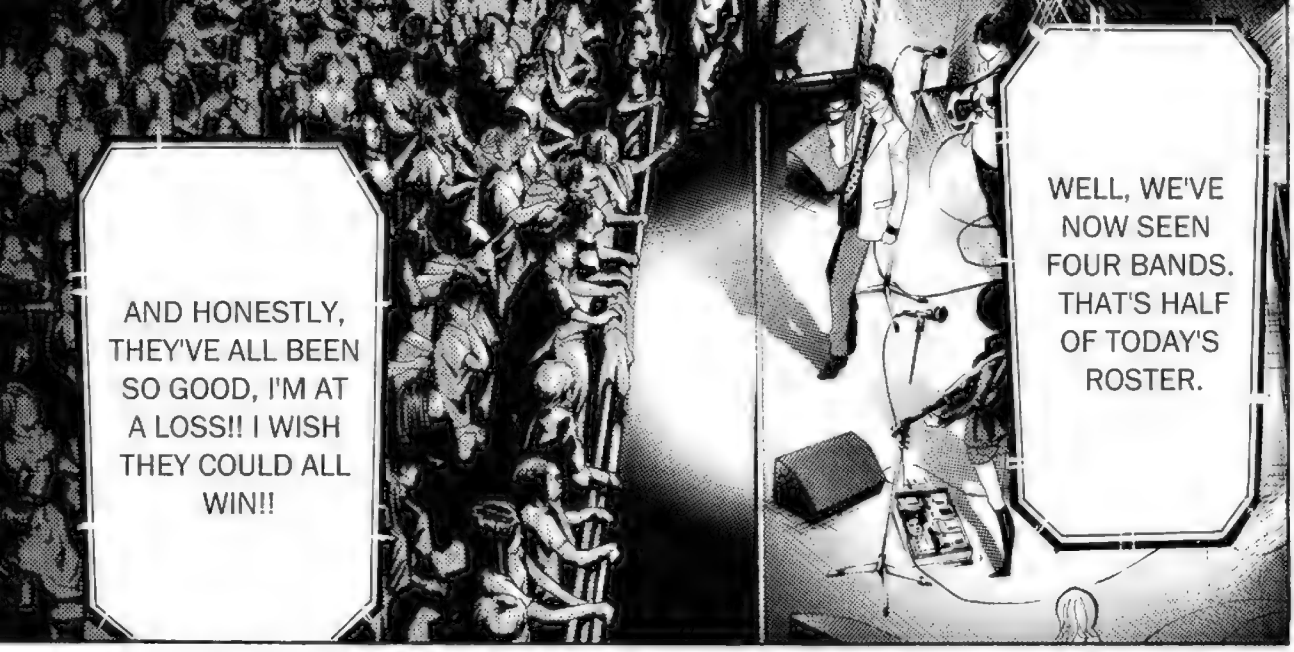
THM
THM
BWRAAAANG
SPAAANG
WHOA
...

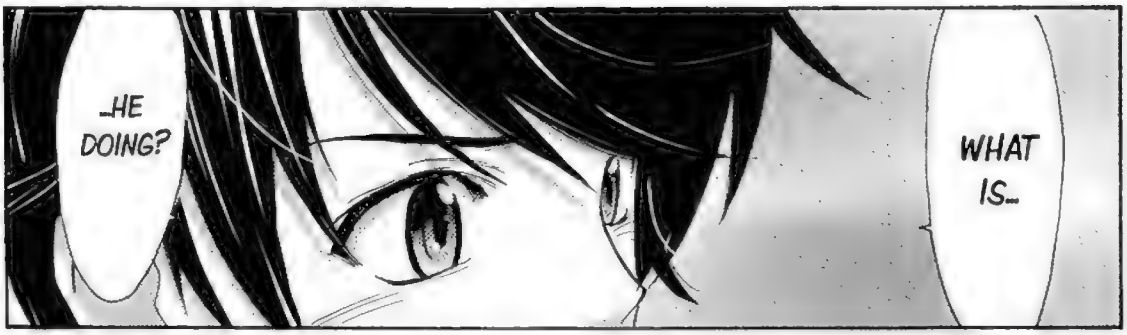
SHE SORT OF-
-RE-MINDS ME OF FUUKA-CHAN.
YEAH.

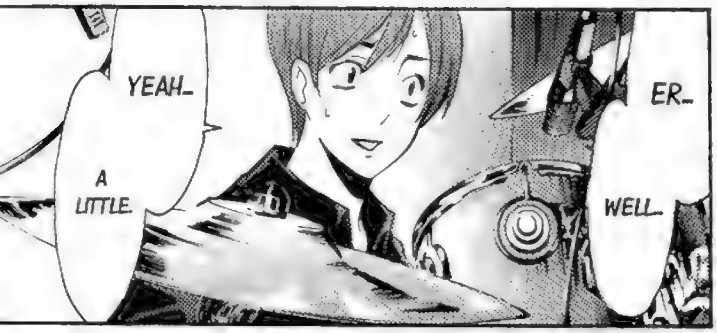


WOOOOOO

...THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN OUR BEST PER-FORMANCE EVER...
I FEEL LIKE ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
TMP
IS EVERY-ONE HAVING FUN?!
HUH--?
H-HEY, THAT'S AKIRA MOGAMI!!
HE CAME JUST TO SEE A PRELIM ROUND?!


WELL, WE'VE NOW SEEN FOUR BANDS. THAT'S HALF OF TODAY'S ROSTER.
AND HONESTLY, THEY'VE ALL BEEN SO GOOD, I'M AT A LOSS!! I WISH THEY COULD ALL WIN!!


WHAT IS...
...HE DOING?


ER...
WELL...
YEAH...
A LITTLE.

OF COURSE, OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL WAS ALSO GREAT, BUT...
YOU THERE, ON THE DRUMS. ARE YOU A BIT NERVOUS?
HUH...?

AND THE GUITARIST AND BASSIST WERE CONCENTRATING TOO MUCH ON PLAYING.
IF YOU PAY MORE ATTENTION TO YOUR FELLOW BAND MEMBERS, YOU'LL BE EVEN BETTER!

YOU HAVE A NICE VOICE, SO IF YOU'D SING EACH PHRASE WITH MORE CARE, YOU'D BE EVEN BETTER!
AND VOCALIST, I THINK YOU WERE IN JUST A LITTLE TOO MUCH OF A HURRY.

I THOUGHT WE ALL DID WELL..
WHAT IS HE SAYING?

YEAH, I WISH THEY'D SOUNDED MORE.. TO-GETHER.
..NOW THAT HE MEN-TIONS IT.
I THINK THEY DID SOUND A LITTLE BIT OFF..

OOPS!!
I GUESS GIVING IN-DIVIDUAL ADVICE IS AGAINST THE RULES!!
I'LL HAVE TO GIVE THE OTHER BANDS ADVICE LATER!!
AHA HA HA!

...
REAL-LY?
I THOUGHT THEY WERE PRETTY AWESOME.

COULD IT BE LE BARD?!
HUH? WHO?!
YOU'VE ALREADY PICKED A LEADER, MOGAMI-SAN?!
IT WAS A GREAT SHOW, THOUGH!
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE RIGHT UP THERE WITH THAT OTHER BAND!
NOW, COME ON! YOU KNOW I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT!
BESIDES, THERE ARE MORE GOOD BANDS COMING UP. IT'LL BE A TOUGH CALL.
H-HEY, AOI!!
DASH
HEY, WHAT'S WITH HER?
HE GAVE HER ADVICE, AND SHE GETS MAD?
HUH? THAT'S KINDA COCKY OF HER, ISN'T IT?
...

KLAT
HEY-
...!

WHAT?
HERE TO TAKE PITY ON ME?

JUST SO YOU KNOW-
...
-THE SAME THING'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOUR BAND.
...
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, HE'LL COME OUT AND RIDICULE YOU.
AND YOU'LL REALIZE THAT ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK HAS BEEN FOR NOTHING.
IT WON'T REACH ANYONE!! ONE WORD FROM A HOTSHOT LIKE HIM AND OUR SONGS ARE JUST-
IT REACHED ME!
-!

IT WAS AN AWESOME PERFOR-MANCE...
...AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT!
...

BUT... WE WON'T LOSE.
I GUARANTEE WE'LL WIN.
MY BAND WILL WIN.

To be continued in Vol. 7